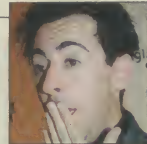


Helping those in need in China
New group of mostly gay Asian men seeks funds to aid HIVers.
 page 20

Seeking justice for LGBTs
A diverse group of activists fight for rights on many fronts.
 see **Pride section**



Pride poster boy
Celebrity grand marshal Alan Cumming interviewed.
 see **Arts section**



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 26 • 24 June 2004

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Power of Pride!

by Zak Szymanski



A portion of Gilbert Baker's rainbow flag makes its way down Market Street at last year's LGBT Pride Parade.

Rick Gehlert

Choose carefully or recklessly, go to parts of everything or ration your time, but this year's extensive menu of Pride activities means there are no excuses for staying home.

2004 is the 34th anniversary of the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration, and its theme of "Out 4 Justice" promises not just a party-packed weekend for all segments of the LGBT com-

munity, but an emphasis on the political aspects of being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender in today's society.

As the community has gained visibility, Pride festivities everywhere have been criticized for becoming too corporate and devoid of any meaning.

It's different this year, in part because of the national climate, but also because SF Pride has been making efforts to highlight the LGBT community's battles and gains.

"It's one of those things that always comes and goes," said Pride President Joey Cain. "In the mid-1970s, Pride became more about parties than politics. Then AIDS hit, and Pride got political again, for a little while at least."

With the right-wing currently in power and making drastic changes to policies in America, said Cain, there was "no way" Pride could avoid being political this year, and not just

page 26 ►

Mistrial declared in Araujo murder case

Manslaughter, trans-panic defense rejected, D.A. says

by Zak Szymanski

Family members sobbed and ran out of a Hayward courtroom on Tuesday, June 22, when Alameda County Superior Court Judge Harry Sheppard declared a mistrial in the murder case against the three men accused of killing East Bay transgender teenager Gwen Araujo.

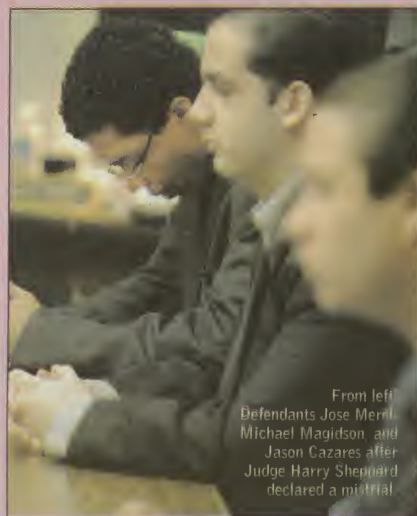
Araujo, 17, was born as a male named Edward but lived her life as a female since the age of 14. She was killed at a house party in Newark in October 2002 by a group of men — two of whom she reportedly had sex with — after they discovered that she was biologically male. Witness testimony described how the defendants — Jason Cazares,

Michael Magidson, and Jose Merel, all 24 — speculated for days if not weeks about Araujo's gender before deciding one night to confirm their suspicions by ordering that her genitalia be revealed. Allegedly over a period of several hours, Araujo was beaten, restrained, and strangled before her body was driven to the Sierra foothills and her killers went out to breakfast at McDonald's.

On Tuesday, jurors informed the court that they were deadlocked on the first-degree murder conviction for all three defendants, and after extensive questioning by Sheppard, it was determined that further deliberations would not be helpful.

The inability to arrive at unanimous verdict means the case will now have to be retried, which the district attorney

page 17 ►



From left: Defendants Jose Merel, Michael Magidson, and Jason Cazares after Judge Harry Sheppard declared a mistrial.

Artes Chu, post photo

FIRST OF THREE SECTIONS



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Dyke March Saturday

by Zak Szymanski

With tens of thousands of women in attendance, San Francisco's Dyke March is considered one of the largest gatherings of dykes on the planet, and the anti-corporate, political, non-permitted annual street takeover begins this year with a rally in Dolores Park at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 26. The march kicks off around 7 p.m., winding through the Mission and spilling out into the Castro.

The Dyke March, first founded as an impromptu response to the 1993 March on Washington's perceived male-centric focus, has grown to include events around the globe, although San Francisco's is traditionally the largest.

All dykes and women are welcome to participate. With the increased visibility of genderqueer and transgender-identified dykes, everybody has the right and responsibility to decide whether they belong in this hard-fought-for space, organizers said.

"We used to say 'women only,' but not everyone with relevant histories or experiences identifies that way; some say 'woman is a construct,' others may have trans identities that overlap," said Tina D'Elia, a Dyke March organizer. "It's about someone's right to self-identify and also say, 'I know I am a part of this, and belong here.'"

But such inclusiveness is not to be abused.

"We continue to demand a space to have our Dyke March and rally free of men. In other

words, we ask that men not participate, but rather that our brothers support us from the sidelines," said a statement on the group's Web site. "We understand dyke identity to include those of us who are questioning and challenging gender constructs imposed by the mainstream and do not necessarily identify as women. We also welcome all women who want to support dykes to march with us."

Participants should prepare themselves for unapologetic progressive political displays, full and partial nudity, and celebratory cheers from the sidelines and apartments that overlook the march. This year's theme is "Uprooting Racism" and like years past will stand against war, hate, homophobia, misogyny, sexism, and all forms of oppression. This year's stage includes speeches and multicultural drag, spoken word, dance, and music performances by Gwen Avery, The Woodyz, Omeyocan, Chi Chi Palace, Harlem Shake, Raks Al Tasneem, Frankie and the Frankettes,

Fresh!, Ida Red and Brenda Crawford, Elana Dykewomon, Jewelle Gomez, Happy Hyder, and Kirya Traber of Youth Speaks.

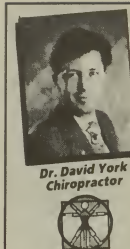
A younger crowd than usual has put Dyke March 2004 together; its founding mothers have passed the reigns and are assisting with the event, said D'Elia. Also new this year is the strategic march lineup: the Women's Motorcycle Contingent will be followed by the carrying of the banner, which will be followed by a cable car that holds disabled participants. Disabled walkers, "Dykes with Tykes," a flatbed DJ truck, and sober contingents are next in line, and then come up to 50,000 marchers. Elder and disabled dykes may also choose a free ride to a viewing stand on Dolores Street; signs in the park will direct them to the pick-up point.

Volunteers are still needed for two-hour shifts; contact dykemarchvolunteer@yahoo.com.

For more information on this year's Dyke March, visit www.dykemarch.org. ▼

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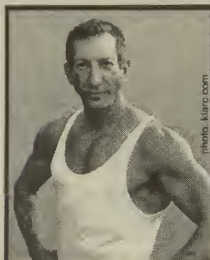
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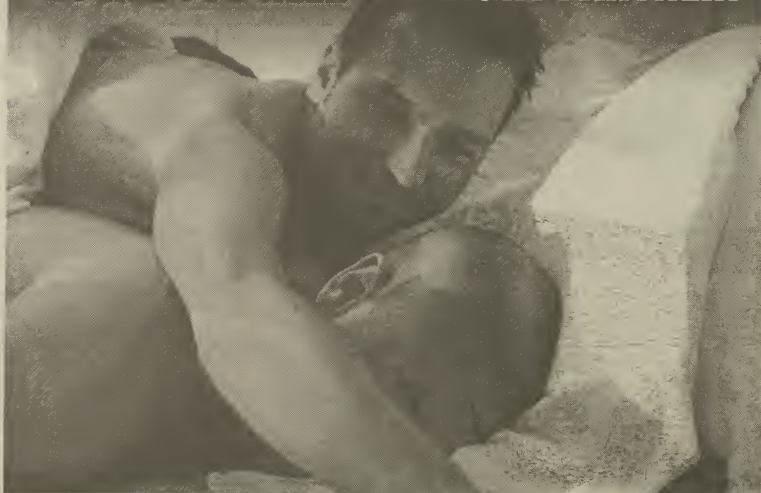
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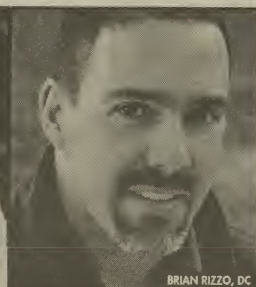
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News in brief

by Cynthia Laird

GGBA expo event today

The Golden Gate Business Association, the nation's first LGBT chamber of commerce, will host its third annual "Pride Business Expo" today (Thursday, June 24) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, in San Francisco.

The event will include seminars and lectures on various topics aimed at helping business owners grow their businesses. Jim Freeman, of IBM, will join Treasurer Susan Leal as the keynote speaker. About 20 businesses will participate in the expo.

Tickets for the expo are \$40 for GGBA members and \$50 for non-members. There will also be a raffle drawing, and *Hairspray* star Keala Settle will join co-star Bruce Vilanch for a laugh or two and to draw the winning numbers. Settle will also sing "Good Morning Baltimore," the opening number of the Tony Award-winning musical, now on tour and playing in San Francisco.

For more information, visit www.ggba.com.

In other news, GGBA announced Monday, June 21 that it had received the Chamber Achievement Award from the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. The award was presented at NGLCC's conference in Washington, D.C. last week.

"To be recognized by NGLCC for our place in history as the nation's first gay and lesbian chamber of commerce is a great honor indeed," said GGBA President Jim Cherry.

Tranny March Friday

An unprecedented Trans March is scheduled to be held Friday, June 25. The group will meet at Dolores Park at 5 p.m. and begin marching to Civic Center at 7. Upon arriving near City Hall, there will be a ceremony inaugurating the first "Trans Altar" to honor, chronicle, and celebrate the struggles, sacrifices, and accom-

plishments of the community.

"What started off as a grassroots rally is turning into two historical events," said community activist Cecilia Chung, one of the event organizers and a member of the Pride Committee.

Chung added that the altar would become a permanent art exhibit for future Pride celebrations in San Francisco.

"The Pride Committee is excited to present the Trans Altar at our event this year as a way to honor and celebrate the transgender community in all its beauty and humanity," said Pride board President Joey Cain.

The event is sponsored by several organizations, including the San Francisco Pride Celebration Committee, the LGBT Community Center, the Remembering Our Dead Project, the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, and the Transgender Law Center.

The march is being held to bring visibility to the transgender community and to build connections within the diverse aspects of the community.

For more information, call (415) 585-0545 or e-mail transmarch@sfteam.org.

Trikone Pride events

Trikone, a queer South Asian organization in the Bay Area, will host its annual dance party and parade contingent this weekend. The dance party takes place Friday, June 25 from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Soluna Café and Lounge, 272 McAllister Street at Larkin in San Francisco. The cover charge is \$7 before 11 p.m. and \$10 afterwards.

Trikone will also have a contingent in Sunday's LGBT Pride Parade and a booth at the festival. Through its social and political activities, Trikone offers a supportive environment where queer South Asians can meet, make connections, and promote awareness and acceptance of their sexuality in society.

For more information on the organization, visit www.trikone.org.

EDC silent auction

The Eviction Defense Collaborative, a legal assistance provider for tenants facing homelessness, is hosting its annual silent auction fundraising event Friday, June 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Center, 1187 Franklin Street at Geary in San Francisco.

Music begins at 6:30 p.m. and bids will be accepted until 8. Some of the auction items available include tickets to plays, the opera, and ballet; artwork by local artists; a

membership to City Car Share; private tennis and yoga lessons; and much more.

EDC was incorporated in 1999 to meet the needs of city residents facing eviction from their home. It is funded in part by grants from the San Francisco Department of Human Services, Catholic Charities, the Mayor's Office on Housing, and private donations.

For more information on Friday's event, call (415) 431-8831. For EDC's office hours and other information, visit www.hrcsf.org and click on the "links" button.

Dance studio open house

In honor of Pride 2004, Metronome Ballroom is opening its doors to new dancers in the gay community with a same-sex open house Saturday, June 26 from 1 to 3 p.m. Participants will learn three dances (salsa, country-western two-step, and Argentine tango), have fun, and meet new people at the event, which is free. Staff said that the workshop is perfect for students who would like to sample what Metronome offers. Metronome is located at 1830 17th Street, at DeHaro in San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 252-9000 or visit www.metronomeballroom.com.

Light up the night for breast cancer

Pink Saturday won't be the same this year thanks to a new benefit for the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. Local resident and longtime BCEF supporter Gary Virginia has come up with yet another unique fundraising idea: pink-lighted faux ice cubes that can be purchased for a \$5 donation to BCEF.

The waterproof pink ice cubes, which can blink or stay lighted, will illuminate any beverage and are in limited supply. Stamped with "SF Gay Pride" on one side, they are a collector's item this Pride weekend, Virginia noted. Cubes will be available starting at 8 p.m. June 26 outside the Edge bar, 18th and Collingwood streets.

Virginia is organizing the event through Krewe de Kinque, a charity and social organization he launched on Mardi Gras night in February. Similar to the krewes in New Orleans and other cities, KDK uses the traditions and themes of Mardi Gras to host various events.

"For the price of a cocktail, partygoers can own a unique memento while bringing light to a person battling breast cancer," said Virginia.

For more information on the

page 14 ►

Correction

In the photo on page 26 in the June 17 *Bay Area Reporter* of people at the Stop AIDS Project's Geezies Ball, the caption misidentified the men. Don Weinger is on the left; Christopher Friday is on the right. We regret the error.

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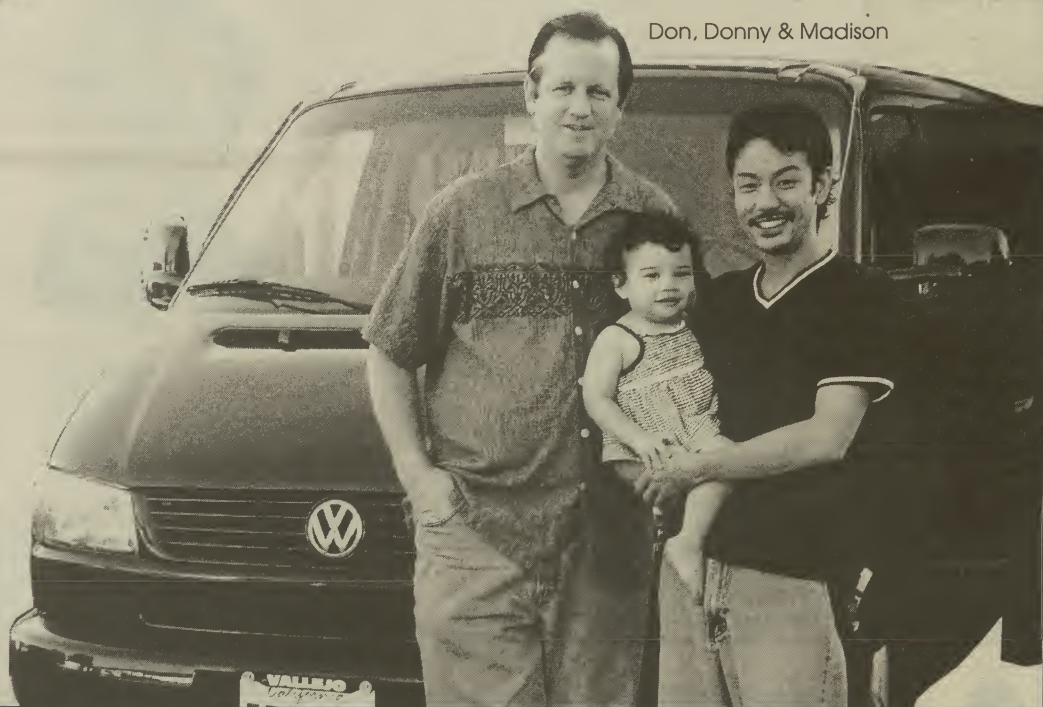
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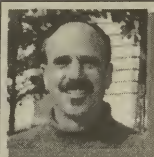
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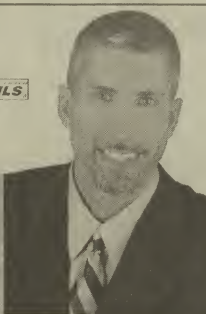
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The Lesbian Health Research Center hosted its gala benefit in San Francisco June 19, following a daylong health conference. Awardees included, from left: Brenda Crawford, Community Leadership Award; Esther Rothblum, Ph.D., Lesbian Health Research Award; Supervisor Bevan Duffy, Civic Leadership Award; and Jan Zivic, Philanthropic Excellence. At right is event co-chair Jan Corlett, Ph.D. Zivic's shoes (which Duffy is holding) were so admired that she auctioned them on the spot, raising \$500 for LHRHC. The center is affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco.

Bar owner alleges a competitor is behind the racist claims

by Matthew S. Bajko

The owner of two Castro bars being accused of racial and gender-based discrimination said this week the charges are part of a smear campaign launched by his competitors who lost out on the purchase of the Pendulum, the Castro's only African American bar.

Last week, a group of multi-ethnic gay men made the charges against Les Natali, who owns SF Badlands and the Detour. They have filed complaints with the city's Human Rights Commission and the state Alcoholic Beverage Control. They are seeking to have Natali's liquor licenses revoked and his bar practices changed.

A separate group of gay black leaders have also come forward with concerns about Natali's purchasing the Pendulum. They fear they will lose the only place they feel welcomed at in the Castro if Natali acquires ownership of the bar.

In a letter to the *Bay Area Reporter*, Natali said other Castro business owners who had wanted to buy the Pendulum are orchestrating the accusations against him. In January, after the Pendulum's owner had accepted his bid, Natali said the seller's attorney warned him that another party bidding for the Pendulum threatened to take steps to prevent or interfere with Natali's purchase of the bar.



Les Natali

Natali claims he was given the option of withdrawing his offer. But, believing the threats would not materialize and seeing no legitimate reason to do so, he went forward with buying the bar.

"Clearly, the other parties who tried to buy the Pendulum were angry when they learned that the bar would be sold to me and not to them," wrote Natali. "Now we are seeing a smear campaign - a well-financed, well-orchestrated, smear campaign. Unfortunately, some well-intentioned people are unwittingly being used as pawns in what is an issue of competition, not discrimination."

Calvin Gipson, who founded and leads the Black Rap Forum, said his group has been working independently for months voicing

concerns about Natali's buying the Pendulum. As for Natali's comments, he told the *B.A.R.* that the letter is "weak."

"Once again Les is attempting to control black people. Slavery is over. We can speak for ourselves," said Gipson.

Don Romesburg, a spokesman for the first group, which refers to itself as *IsBadlandsBad.com*, said no one in his group works for Natali's competitors. He said the issue of the Pendulum is actually clouding the real issue of the discrimination occurring at Badlands.

"We didn't know about the Pendulum issue until the weekend prior to our press conference. We were stunned," said Romesburg. "We would rather it weren't part of the problem. The issue of the Pendulum in some ways is a distraction from the egregious discrimination he has been engaged in."

Natali is not the only one who has questioned the timing and true reason behind the charges. Eric Allen Bass, who operates the *joeffre.com* Web site, posted comments Monday, June 21, calling into question the motivation behind the allegations.

"SF-Badlands has been around for FOUR YEARS! In that time, the place has remained pretty much the same. So, we're either to believe that Natali recently changed his business practices and black folks started to notice or

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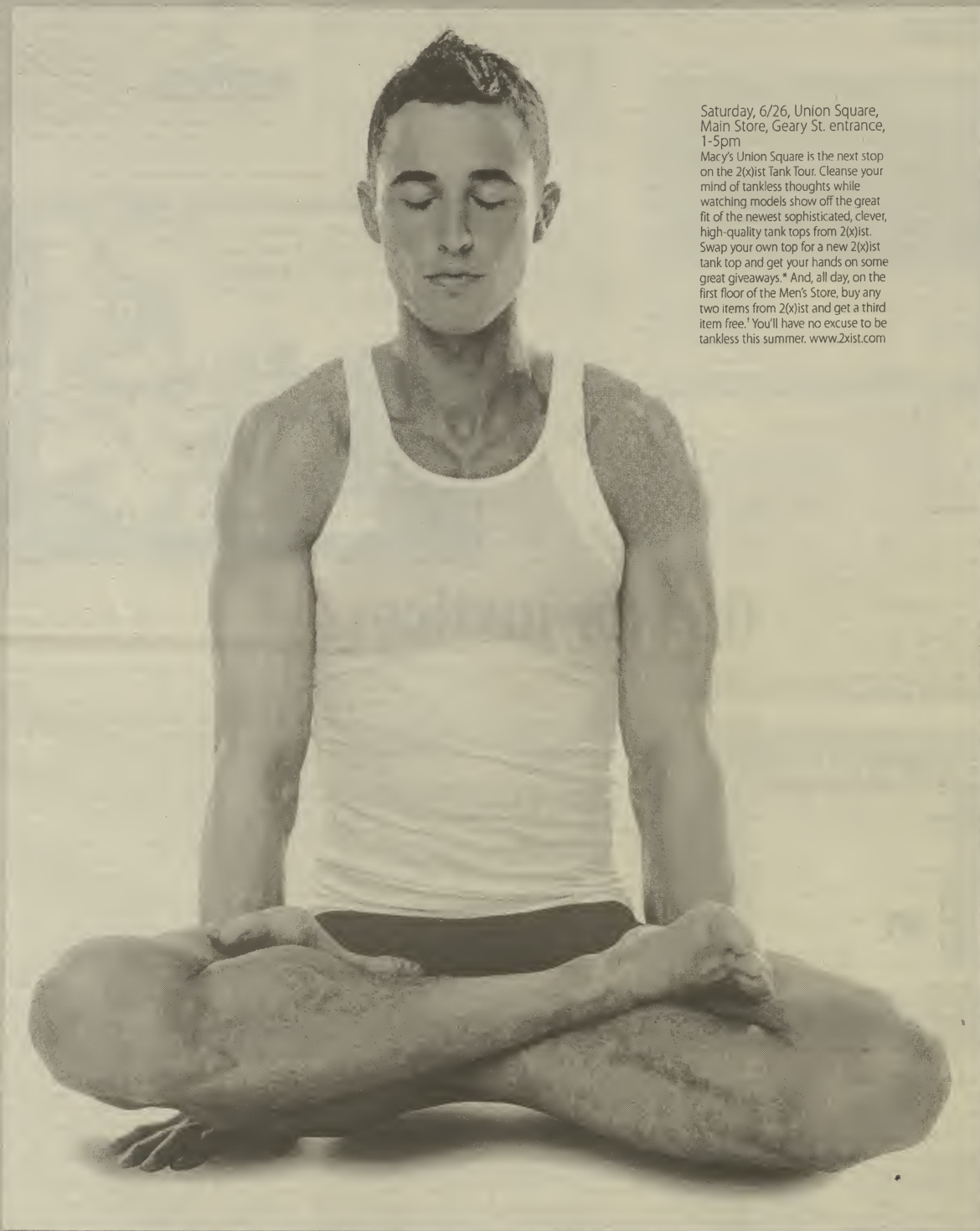
Restaurant, their other location in Oakland, on Lakeshore Avenue. For menu details, check the website at www.mezze.com

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Solange and Maurice Darwish announce that effective immediately, the Cove Café (to be renamed "Cove on Castro") is under their unified management after the departure of their long-time partner. Look out for décor changes as well as improved menu selections over the next few months. Solange, Maurice and the entire Cove staff are eager to welcome you back, so stop by and say hello. If you are in the East Bay and in the mood for fine Mediterranean cuisine, Solange and Maurice extend their warmest welcome to visit Mezzé

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Volume 34, Number 26
24 June 2004

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OPEN FORUM

Pride and prejudice

This year's Pride Parade theme, "Out 4 Justice" couldn't be more appropriate. With all the LGBT-related issues prominently in the news, it's more important than ever that we continue to be visible as we advance our fight for equality.

This year's Pride season, however, is marred by the mistrial of three men accused of murdering 17-year-old transgender teenager Gwen Araujo. Despite roughly 10 days of deliberations, a Hayward jury was hopelessly deadlocked over whether to convict the defendants on first-degree murder charges. While the Alameda County District Attorney's office will retry Jose Merel, Michael Magidson, and Jason Cazares, it is nonetheless disappointing and frustrating that the first trial ended without resolution. On the other hand, early reports indicate that the jury was not persuaded by the defense's trans panic tactics, which is a good sign. Too many times, we have seen gays, lesbians, and transgenders viciously murdered, only to have the suspects claim - often successfully - that either the victim was "coming on to them," or, in Araujo's case, that the defendants were "deceived" by her gender presentation.

The Pride Committee board on Tuesday night decided to dedicate this year's parade to Araujo, which is a wonderful gesture; it's only too bad that she didn't live to see it. However, Araujo's family members and legions of supporters have vowed to fight on, and we're confident they will remain strong as they prepare to endure yet again the often gut-wrenching testimony when the new trial starts, probably next year.

Unfortunately, despite all the gains made in recent years, including legal same-sex marriage in Massachusetts and the overturning of sodomy laws just about a year ago, homophobia and prejudice are still evident, even in San Francisco. Just last week

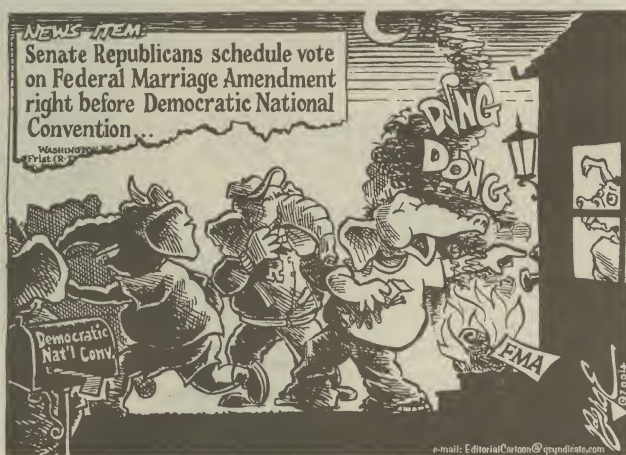
when we were shooting our Pride section cover photograph across the street from City Hall, a man watched our actions and made an antigay remark about the fact that we had children in the photo - one the daughter of the women participating, the other a close family friend who had her parents' permission to take part in the event. Even in the gayest city in the world, some people just don't get it.

In spite of the continued challenges, we have much to be proud of this year, with gay marriage and the larger theme of justice being celebrated this weekend. Transgenders and people of color,

for example, are visible this year like never before, a sign that the city's gay community is coming of age. Something that is not seen often enough, gay men - not always the most vocal when it comes to transgender issues - were on TV Tuesday night, voicing their displeasure with the Araujo mistrial, and the larger issue of the so-called gay panic defense. This is the time of year when we all come together to celebrate; yet we must remember that after Pride, we need to remain unified and continue to speak out against homophobia and transphobia. "Out 4 Justice" is more than a theme - it's an ideal to strive for. Have a safe and inclusive Pride. ▼



Editorial



Out for justice

by Ann P. Meredith

Recently I was invited to a reception at the White House by first lady Laura Bush to be honored as an artist and donor to the Art in Embassies Program, an adjunct of the U.S. Department of State's diplomacy program. I am against and do not support the Bush administration and I do not support or condone the regional and global violence perpetrated by the U.S. military. For many years I have loaned my large-scale, black and white photographs from my series *Until That Last Breath! The Global Face of Women With AIDS 1987-1997* to be shown in American embassies throughout the world, specifically in Africa, a country whose people, as we all know, have been grievously decimated by the unending AIDS pandemic.

When the formal invitation arrived in the mail I immediately felt that I would "just say no," sending instead a factual declaration of the horrific sexual assaults by male U.S. military against U.S. enlisted women currently stationed in Iraq. This reception was supposed to have happened during the Clinton administration and I was thrilled with anticipation to meet Bill and Hill. I had already, even as a butch dyke, picked out my outfit! When plans seemed to wane about this event, as a staunch lesbian feminist Democrat I had promised myself that if the recognition of me and my work had carried over into the Bush administration that I would surely not attend. After 35 years of fighting in the frontlines for LGBT human rights how could I go to the house of the highest patriarchal symbol of evil himself?

But as I planned my letter of regret, I realized on a spiritual level that only my ego and my own fear were standing in my way of a possible act of civil disobedience. That, in fact, going to meet the Clintons would merely have been "preaching to the choir." Perhaps I actually stood a chance of making some small difference by speaking with a different voice and a different face from a different place to the identified 'enemy' in person. If, indeed, I could find the courage to ask my hatred and terror to step aside and

go to the Bush White House, perhaps I could serve as an out lesbian activist, as a real human being in the flesh, not an unnamed letter through the mail that they could easily discard.

As a documentary photographer and filmmaker for the last 35 years I have worked to give a face and a voice to LGBT people, especially women throughout the world, who are injured, oppressed, and unable to speak for themselves. My current series, *Forgotten Angels - A Matter of Honor, Women and the U.S. Military*, began as a benign, albeit necessary, recognition of women's contributions in an area of work that I deeply despised - the U.S. military. While dedicated to my closeted homosexual aunt, Martha Jane Adkins - pharmacist mate first class, U.S. Navy, Korea - in *Angels* I was barely touching the tip of the iceberg of the U.S. military's dictated, misogynistic role against women. Although in interview after interview more and more women were opening up with tales of absolute horror: battering, rape, psychological torture, and even murder. All things I was unfortunately, too familiar with. As a survivor of military sexual assault, experimentation, torture, and interrogation by the U.S. Air Force in Europe in the 1950s and in Northern California in the 1960s I was afraid to tell the whole truth in *Angels*, not just other women's violent experience, but mine as well.

I celebrated 20 years of sobriety June 16th and have lived and worked a spiritual life during this time so I realized that not only did I have to go to the White House, but that I needed to go for my own personal growth, for my own self-esteem. I had to walk through the terror that I have felt and that has controlled my behavior my entire life and kept me from having a real life for 56 years. No matter how painful it would be I needed to go as an out butch dyke - with my crew cut hair, in my black tux and tie - into the White House, into the U.S. Department of State, meet Laura Bush, meet Secretary of State Colin Powell and ... be myself.

We queer and Democrat artists found each other at the various events. Thank goodness. I am honored to have been acknowledged at the White House and the Department of State for my art and its contribution to the global fight against AIDS through the Art in Embassies program and will continue to work with them in this capacity. I met, spoke with, and was encouraged by my conversation with Secretary of State Colin Powell about utilizing art in the fight to end the dreaded disease.

The energy around Mrs. Bush was very scary, so I purposefully kept my distance, connected with the numerous uniformed female military guards in the East Wing and am now working with the personal aide to the first lady on *Angels*.

I was disheartened to find the portraits of the first ladies in lower, darker level of the White House, in the entry room to the women's toilet. Women are still the bastards of the universe and the White House is no exception.

From the White House reception I went to Capitol Hill where I gave my personal testimony as a survivor of military abuse in the offices of Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California), Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-California), and Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-New York). The experience was very upsetting yet empowering for me.

Since my return I have contacted and sent my testimony to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's office in San Francisco and have given my testimony to Congresswoman Barbara Lee's (D-Oakland) office as well.

For those interested in the big picture you may contact the Chair of Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues: Julia L. Ernst, Legislative Counsel, Office of Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter, 9 Rayburn House Office Building, 2469 Washington D.C. 20515, or e-mail julia.ernst@mail.house.gov. ▼

For more information about Ann P. Meredith's work, visit www.annpmeredith.com.

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

A few words from John Kerry

As San Francisco celebrates Pride, I am excited to join the LGBT community in fighting for equal rights for gay Americans. I believe that Americans should embrace the diversity that makes our nation strong and recommit ourselves to ensuring that all Americans receive equal rights.

The LGBT community contributes to our nation in so many ways, in every corner of this country. And in return, you ask only for equal treatment. LGBT Americans deserve the right to make medical decisions for one another in times of crisis; the right to inherit a house purchased together; and equal access to health insurance, Social Security, and retirement benefits. Together we can provide this simple justice.

The Bush administration repeatedly uses gay rights as a political tool to divide the nation. That's just wrong. I am committed to using the power of the White House to advance equal rights for all Americans, including gay Americans. We don't need a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. We need to find a way to provide all American families with full and equal rights. We don't need opposition to hate crime legislation. We need to reject hate and embrace acceptance. And we don't need a president who plays politics with gay adoption. We need a president who works everyday to protect and support all children and families.

I want to lead an America where the inscription "Equal Justice Under the Law" has both meaning and value for all Americans, not just some Americans. And I need your help to make that happen. Stop by the John Kerry for President booth to join with me today as we celebrate Pride. Let's work to make an America where all Americans are celebrated with pride and treated with dignity and fairness.

John Kerry, Member
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Badlands owner responds

After seeing the scope and vindictiveness of the allegations against me made by the persons quoted in the *Bay Area Reporter* June 17 ("Racial charges lodged against Castro bar owner," June 17), I feel it's important to disclose some confidential information: At the time I made the offer to buy the Pendulum, there were at least two other parties, business owners in the Castro, who wanted to buy the Pendulum. There were offers and counteroffers and lengthy negotiations. About six months ago, when it became clear that my offer would be accepted (and their offers rejected), my attorney was notified by the seller's attorney that threats had been made by the other party(s) that they would take steps to prevent or interfere with the sale - if they did not get the Pendulum.

I was given the opportunity to withdraw my offer. I did not withdraw because I did not believe that the threats would materialize or that there was any legitimate reason that I should not be permitted to buy the Pendulum. I was wrong about the threats; they did materialize, I'm sorry to say. However, I welcome the present investigations because I believe they will prove that the allegations against me and Badlands are totally without merit.

Badlands has been a popular dance bar in the Castro for over four years. We have a diverse clientele of all races, all colors, both men and women. We welcome African Americans and we have a large number of African American customers. We do not discriminate against persons of color or women, and we do not violate the police code. The only time our doorman ask for two pieces of identification is when the first ID is not valid. I have never been contacted by the persons who made the complaints, and I have never refused to meet with them. I am always available to meet with any individual or group to address any concerns they may have about the Badlands or the Pendulum.

Clearly the other parties who tried to buy the Pendulum were angry when they learned that the bar would be sold to me and not to them. They made threats to stop or block the sale. Now we are seeing a smear campaign - a well-financed, well-orchestrated, smear campaign. Unfortunately, some well-intentioned people are unwittingly being used as pawns in what is an issue of competition, not discrimination.

Les Natali
San Francisco

Racial allegations in the Castro

Certain negative allegations and statements made toward SF Badlands and the Detour are unfair and deserve a second opinion. I have been a VJ at Badlands since 2001, and have seen several trends change over the last three years, both in and out of the bar scene. I feel personally insulted being deemed racist for not playing rap or hip-hop type music. Furthermore, I believe that this malicious attack is wrong and very hurtful to both patrons and the staff of Badlands and Detour. In a media release and complaint filed with Alcoholic Beverage Control, only portions of so-called incidents have been stated and are one-sided. I've al-

ways recognized that Badlands owner Les Natali has strived to create a fun and enjoyable environment for patrons of Badlands.

Badlands is a video dance bar. That we don't play country, classical, or hard rock music does not mean that we discriminate against people who enjoy those genres as well. We are also sometimes limited to certain genres based on subscriptions to multiple video services.

As for the matter of notices being posted stating to avoid "rap and hip-hop type music," a former employee neglected to mention that this decision was made after physical altercations occurred between patrons on busy nights. Badlands has not banned all hip-hop type music. In fact, we play such mainstream artists as Outkast, Beyonce, and Black Eyed Peas just as often as we play Britney, Madonna, or Kylie. What was also neglected in the statement was that there was also a notice to break up our sets of music with 1980s, disco, and "camp style" music, again keeping the goal of Badlands fun and enjoyable for everyone.

As for various alleged incidents, I can't comment on each one, because I was not a witness to them. However, in a letter written to the ABC, an incident about people break-dancing on the floor and being asked to leave is missing a few points of pertinent information. The group that was ejected from the club consisted of a minor who had sneaked into the club, and had been asked to leave on an occasion prior to this occurrence. The group was being loud and disruptive, and a few other patrons that were in the front of the bar did complain.

As for the allegation that out of the 45 people employed at both bars, only a few were "non-white," as stated by a former employee, as of May 31, 15 out of the 45 people are multiracial.

In conclusion, the staff members of Badlands and Detour are a close-knit group of people that are almost like family, so I do take this attack personally. We are a proud group of people that enjoy serving and entertaining the entire community; gay, straight, male or female no matter what your ethnicity, religion, or beliefs are. If you're from around the corner or around the world we welcome you to the Badlands and Detour.

Ron Scharffer
San Francisco

Free advice for bar owner

Thank you for your comprehensive coverage of the charges of racism lodged against Castro bar owner Les Natali. Regardless of the outcome of the investigation by the city's Human Rights Commission, the issue sends a clear signal to any individual or group that any acts of racism or discrimination - real or perceived - against women or minorities, gay or straight, will not be tolerated by the community, especially the Castro community.

I live in the Castro, and Badlands has become my neighborhood bar. Between drinks and tips, I spend close to \$500 a month. If the charges are proven to be true, I am prepared to take my business to other bars.

Clearly, Natali has a lot of explaining to do. Let me offer some unsolicited advice - here are the top 10 things he should do to prove he is not a racist:

No. 10: He should play hip-hop music every day instead of just Mondays when there is hardly any customers anyway, white or minority.

No. 9: He should add the slogan "All are Welcome" on the awnings of the Badlands, Detour and, when the escrow closes - the Pendulum.

No. 8: He should do the same when he finally decides to reopen The Patio restaurant.

No. 7: He should buy a drink for the first person of color he sees in any of his bars when he is around.

No. 6: He should hire women as bartenders and door persons.

No. 5: He should hire African Americans and Native Americans as bartenders and door persons.

No. 4: He should hire more Latinos as bartenders and door persons, not just as bar-backs and coat check clerks.

No. 3: He should hire more Asians as bartenders and door persons, not just as bar-backs and coat check clerks.

No. 2: His signs about drink specials and CD release parties should also be posted in Spanish and Asian languages.

No. 1: He should include beer in the 2 for 1 drink specials at happy hour. (Okay, this has nothing to do with racism or discrimination. It has to do with my drink preference.)

Happy Pride!

Renato M. Astudillo, Executive Director
Asian American Journalists Association
San Francisco

Badlands is not bad

Les Natali has many people of color working for him. I am black and Jewish and tend bar at the Badlands part time. How exactly did the group do its re-

next page ►

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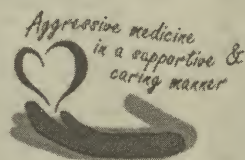
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Mailstrom

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search? There are many different shades of blackness. Before going public with such serious allegations, you need to do your homework first. Come in and get a drink from me and I will tell you how things really are from a black man's perspective. Les has always treated me with the utmost respect and professionalism. The staff and I are in full support of Les Natali.

Brian Bloom
San Francisco

Many issues in bar dispute

I worked for Mr. Natali at the Patio Cafe, Badlands, and also as a building manager. The charges being brought against Mr. Natali are more than racism, they are a violation of employment laws (Title VII of the CRA of 1962 and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act). It is curious that Mr. Natali is accused of not hiring African Americans and women. Mr. Natali is only obligated not to discriminate in employment against people who actually apply. When Mr. Natali seeks employees he puts a sign in the window that details the position that needs to be filled and welcomes applications from any qualified applicant. In the four years that I worked at Badlands I do not ever recall a female or an African American applying for a job there. I have never heard Mr. Natali express a policy against hiring blacks. In fact when I worked at the Patio Cafe he offered my best friend (who is black) a job as a night waiter because he had a position open. My friend had not even applied. The Patio also had a female bartender and female servers.

I think there are many issues involved in this recent drama. First, members of the black community fear that the Pendulum will be shuttered and they will lose their bar. The Pendulum is a dump and a renovation would give the neighborhood a facelift. Second, there is resentment because Badlands tends not to play hip-hop music. Third, I think that Mr. Natali's sometimes-brusque personality has created resentment and made him an easy target. Mr. Natali has expressed that he does not plan on changing the character or music at Pendulum. He should be given the benefit of the doubt. He did not change the music or essence of Detour. He just turned it from a drug den back to a well maintained bar.

It is also curious that Supervisor Bevan Dufty made some negative comments about Mr. Natali. Could this have anything to do with Mr. Dufty's relationship with Greg Bronstein, whose partnership group owns The Bar on Castro? It is no secret that Mr. Bronstein and Mr. Natali have had a protracted legal case regarding the Detour. Don't underestimate the power of politics.

R.J. Nelson
San Francisco

Transparent investigation needed

Harvey Milk once said, "I better hope for tomorrow. Not only for gays, but for blacks, Asians, the disabled, our senior citizens, and us. Without hope, we give up. I know you cannot live on hope alone, but without it life is not worth living. You and you have got to see [to it] that the promise does not fade."

The late Supervisor Milk's statement reflects the core values of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, San Francisco's largest Democratic club, among them: hope, fairness, inclusion, and justice. In fact, these values are at the very center of our work; even the Milk Club's preamble states that "We shall expect politicians [and others] to take progressive stands on economic issues, on the rights of women, workers, and minorities, on the protection of the environment, and on international affairs."

While these values must be upheld by each of us year-round, it is especially important that they be upheld and defended during Pride, when we come together as an entire community to celebrate our diversity and our accomplishments, and unite to prepare for difficult battles ahead on marriage and other issues.

However, reports last week in this paper, as well as in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Francisco Examiner*, and other media, revealed that the owner of two prominent Castro establishments may be engaging in activities that violate these very principles. According to a group calling itself *IsBadlandsBad.com*, Les Natali, the owner of the SF Badlands and Detour bars, has for some time now been engaging in some pretty troubling activities. These are alleged to include: requiring African American patrons to show more than one form of valid ID; evicting African Americans and women from the SF Badlands without cause; passing over African Americans and women at the bar and providing them with poor service; and discriminating against African Americans.

The answer is simple: discrimination is unacceptable - in any and all of its forms - whether it affects just one person, dozens of people, or an entire com-

munity. It is simply wrong to single out, humiliate, abuse, or mistreat any person on the basis of his or her identity. Indeed, we think it's wrong to do that on any basis. Ever.

But discrimination is especially unacceptable within our own community: Given our own experiences with isolation and mistreatment, we have an even greater responsibility to live by the values of fairness, equality, and justice, the very same values we are asking others to uphold and defend on our behalf.

As an organization committed to the values of diversity, inclusion, and justice, we would like to add our voice to the many others who are calling for a full and transparent investigation by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and the city attorney into the allegations of discrimination at SF Badlands and the Detour. We also urge that the ABC place a hold on the transfer of the liquor license of the Pendulum until such time as these allegations are substantively and satisfactorily addressed by Mr. Natali.

If Mr. Natali is, in fact, engaging in illegal practices intended to exclude members of our community on the basis of their race, gender, or other protected status, then he is not entitled to the privilege of owning a liquor license and unworthy of our dollars. We hope that this is not the case; after all, we would like to believe that everyone in our community is committed to inclusion, equality, and justice, and strives every-day to live according to those values.

However, if this proves not to be the case, then it is our responsibility - as a community - to stand together, all of us, to defend Harvey's vision. In a speech about the importance of communities and, in particular, neighborhoods, Harvey urged that we "lead the city... down the route that has little room for political payoffs and deals...; that is a route of making a city an exciting place for all to live: not just an exciting place for a few to live. A place for the individual and individual rights."

Michael Goldstein, President
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Employees support Natali

The following letter is in regards to the June 17 news article printed in your paper. Upon reading the accusations against Badlands, Detour, and of Les Natali, my fellow employees and I were filled with feelings of great shock and disbelief.

I am currently the manager of the Detour and have been employed at the bar since the end of October 2003. I can honestly say that to my knowledge neither my fellow employees nor I have ever been instructed, coerced, directed, or in any way influenced to act in a manner so as to discriminate against any specific race, gender, or orientation. I have also never instructed any of my employees to act in such a way. The implication that we (Badlands and Detour employees) would carry out such actions is as bad as to accuse us of giving such orders ourselves. The accusations that we have acted in such a manner, whether directly instructed to do so or not, are insulting to our values, honor, and intelligence. They are something to which we take great offense at and we call for a public apology to be made. Personally, I also find it interesting that none of the group making the complaints has approached us beforehand regarding the situation.

Les Natali, like each and every one of us, may have his faults, but promoting racial or gender-based discrimination is not one of them. His main concern is that people are in his establishments having an enjoyable time with no one causing problems. He does not like trouble in his bars. This may include anyone and over the years I have seen people of all types asked to leave. Never have I heard of it happening specifically based on race or gender, of which he is accused. Nor have I witnessed bartenders purposefully ignoring minorities at the bar.

Mistakes do happen, odd situations do occur, and from those things misunderstandings can spring. But those issues do not mean there was an ethnic or gender bias. I also bartend and know firsthand how easy it can be not to notice someone or get to them in what might be considered "out of turn." I can also say with complete confidence that if there were a fellow employee who was discriminatory in such a fashion he or she would not be tolerated by his fellow employees, let alone by Natali.

I pride myself on the fact that the people I work with are very open and friendly with our customers. I have heard from many people that whatever one may think of Badlands and the Detour, we do have the friendliest bar staff around.

Alan Johnson, Manager
Detour Bar

(Sent with the support of the following employees:
Damon Reiter, Dennis Troncathy, Gabriel Cervo,
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and Jeremy Vanlet)

POLITICS

Pride Week: Unsung heroes 'Out 4 Justice'

by Wayne Friday

This year marks the 34th anniversary of the LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration in San Francisco and while it isn't the first Pride event whose theme focuses on our community's struggle for civil rights, it may well be a historic milestone for finally reflecting something more than just wishful thinking.

With same-sex marriage at the forefront of our national political agenda, a bona fide reality in Massachusetts, and the aim of high stakes litigation by our own city and county of San Francisco in state courts here, it's easy to forget that as recently as last year homosexual sex was still against the law in more than a dozen states. Indeed, we recall that it wasn't until last June (right before Pride weekend) that the U.S. Supreme Court's *Lawrence v. Texas* decision struck down state sodomy statutes across the country. Our community has come a long way in a short time. And I doubt I'm alone in beginning to believe that something I would never have predicted seeing in my lifetime – the right of gay and lesbian couples in America to join in state-sanctioned marriage – may well become a reality.

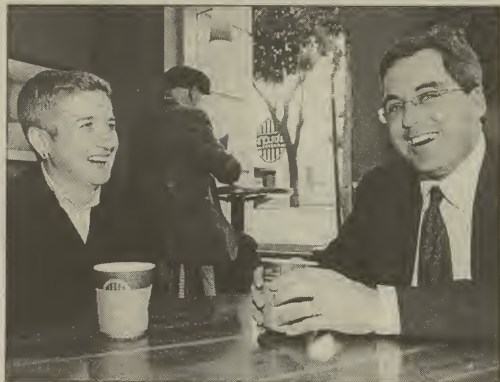
It's only most fitting, then, that this year's Pride theme is "Out 4 Justice" – because that's exactly what the world will see in the thousands who'll take part in Sunday's parade up Market Street. Despite its obvious controversy, same-sex marriage has clarified the struggle for LGBT equality unlike anything before it, pushing us past incremental issues like military service and employment non-discrimination – which while very worthy, are often successfully tagged as "special rights" by antigay foes. Marriage, by contrast, is indisputably about equal rights. It cuts to the heart of our humanity and our right to have our loving relationships recognized. What's more, it finally gets us off defense and puts us on offense.

Now, we shouldn't have any illusions, since marriage equality is still an uphill battle, and we're sure to see plenty of political setbacks before we achieve it. However, if this year's Pride celebration feels like a turning point in the LGBT movement, there's good reason for it. Once again, proudly, San Francisco is at the heart of it all.

Local heroes

There are plenty of heroes to thank, of course, and two will be featured prominently in this year's Pride Parade as grand marshals: Mayor **Gavin Newsom** took a truly courageous stand in deciding to issue same-sex marriage licenses in February and his bold leadership has won him recognition nationwide. Assessor-Recorder **Mabel Teng** spared no effort to facilitate the issuance of licenses and lent her office's support for what many considered a risky and very controversial endeavor.

Not among Sunday's parade grand marshals, but no less prominent, of course, will be many of the 4,000 same-sex new-



Chief Deputy City Attorney Therese Stewart, left, shares a laugh with her boss, City Attorney Dennis Herrera.

lyweds, many of whom waited in long lines, braving terrible weather, and who courageously embraced the uncertainty of "legal limbo" to become same-sex marriage pioneers. Likewise, thanks are due to the hundreds of City Hall volunteers who made it all possible as well as the pro-marriage demonstrators – gay and straight alike – who helped send a message to the world that San Francisco was not the scene of anarchy and riots during all this, in marked contrast to what Governor **Arnold**

Schwarzenegger would have had people believe.

I also must point out that among all the heroes behind same-sex marriages in San Francisco, however, none have worked harder, dedicated more time and effort, or committed themselves to a more momentous task over the next two or three years than the lawyers and legal professionals working for City Attorney **Dennis Herrera**, who was himself very instrumental in the battle for marriage equality right from the start. To say that Herrera's office is the team doing the heavy lifting for gay marriage is the truth quite literally; the legal battle so far has required his office to file some 600 pages of briefs in addition to hundreds of pages of motions, correspondence, and discovery. The city attorney's office has invested literally thousands of hours in research and writing, pulled countless all-nighters, and in some cases some staff members have spent their own honeymoons preparing the city's defense against the legal onslaught including foes ranging from antigay out of state foundations to California Attorney General **Bill Lockyer's** office.

We should not forget as well that at a time when no one expected San Francisco's experiment in same-sex marriage to continue past President's Day (least of all the long lines of same-sex couples who camped overnight through rainy weather over the long weekend), it was Herrera's office who successfully fended off repeated attempts for a court-ordered stay. Indeed, it is fair to say that it was the city attorney's office that single-handedly kept gay nuptials going for a month – much to the chagrin of antigay legal teams – until the state Supreme Court fi-

nally stepped in on March 11.

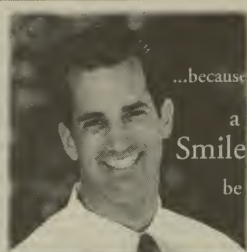
When the state high court heard arguments last month on the narrow issue of whether Mayor Newsom exceeded his authority in issuing the licenses, it was Chief Deputy City Attorney **Therese Stewart**, who was personally recruited and hired by Herrera and is the city's highest-ranking LGBT legal official, who so impressively argued the city's position on a difficult side issue that even most optimistic legal minds feel the city will quite likely lose.

It was shortly after his upset election in 2001, that Herrera stunned the Bay Area legal community by successfully wooing this bright lesbian attorney Stewart, a former president of the San Francisco Bar Association and senior partner at the high-powered law firm of Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady Falk & Rabkin, to leave her position there to join his City Hall office. Stewart is a highly regarded litigator who helped lead the city's successful defense of its equal benefits ordinance and is widely regarded as a critical asset for the city's constitutional challenge to discriminatory state marriage laws.

Regardless of what happens now on the narrow question of mayoral authority currently before the state Supreme Court, it is Herrera's separate lawsuit against the state that is ultimately expected to determine the constitutionality of marriage in California, and legal pundits nationally are already saying that the case couldn't be in better hands. In my mind, Herrera is no less a hero than Mayor Newsom in the battle for same-sex marriage.

Indeed, in a March profile entitled "Activism Defines S.F. City Attorney's Office," the *Los Angeles Times* described "an unconventional public law office that has earned a nationwide reputation for its aggressive legal tactics." Another cover story in this month's *American Lawyer* magazine calls Herrera's office "one of the most aggressive and talented city law departments in the nation." Herrera himself told a graduating class of political science students at San Francisco State University last month: "this [same sex-marriage issue] is perhaps the most important struggle for equality and civil rights of our time, and I'm very proud – indeed, I hope we can all be proud – that San Francisco is again at the forefront,

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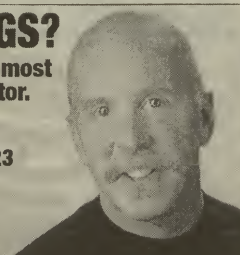
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Reagan and AIDS: A reassessment

by Dale Carpenter

For gay Americans, any evaluation of Ronald Reagan's legacy begins and ends with his record on AIDS. According to the conventional view, Reagan was responsible for the deaths of thousands of gay men.

On the official day of national mourning for Reagan, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force closed its office to mourn those who have died of AIDS. NGLTF's executive director, Matt Foreman, issued an open letter blasting the president for "years of White House silence and inaction." Eric Rofes, a gay author, complained that Reagan "said nothing and did nothing" about AIDS.

But Foreman and some other critics have gone even further, suggesting that criminal malevolence and antigay bigotry drove Reagan administration policies on AIDS. "I wouldn't feel so angry if the Reagan administration's failing was due to ignorance or bureaucratic ineptitude," Foreman wrote in his open letter. "No, ... we knew then it was deliberate." According to Wayne Besen, a former spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, "we were considered expendable and forsaken

by the president." Larry Kramer wrote in the *Advocate* that Reagan was a "murderer," worse even than Adolf Hitler.

Though exaggerated and somewhat misplaced, the negligence theory is arguable. The malice theory is not supportable.

First, it's untrue that the Reagan administration "said nothing" in response to the disease. In June 1983, a year before the virus that causes AIDS had even been publicly identified, Reagan's secretary of Health and Human Services, Margaret Heckler, announced at the U.S. Conference of Mayors that the department "considers AIDS its number-one health priority." She specifically praised "the excellent work done by gay networks around the nation" that had spread information about the disease.

Despite the oft-repeated claim that Reagan himself didn't mention AIDS publicly until 1987, he actually first discussed it at a press conference in September 1985. Responding to a reporter's question about the need for more funding, Reagan accurately noted that the federal government had already spent more than half a billion dollars on AIDS up to that point. "So, this is a top priority with us," said Reagan. "Yes, there's no question about the seriousness

of this and the need to find an answer."

Still, Reagan could have said more. He could have offered sympathy for the dying and inveighed against discrimination. He could have urged prevention education. A master at using the bully pulpit for causes he believed in, Reagan manifestly failed to use it on the subject of AIDS.

In this, it must be noted, he was hardly alone. Most politicians of the age either failed to grasp the seriousness of AIDS or, grasping it, were reluctant to discuss openly a disease spread primarily through anal sex and dirty needles. For years, New York City Mayor Ed Koch, a liberal Democrat presiding over the epicenter of the disease, refused even to meet with AIDS groups. AIDS was not mentioned from the podium of either national party convention in 1984. "Silence" about AIDS was a national failing, not one peculiar to Reagan.

Second, it's untrue that the Reagan administration "did nothing" in response to the disease. Deroy Murdock, a gay-friendly conservative columnist, has reviewed federal spending on AIDS programs during the Reagan years. According to Murdock, annual spending rose from \$8 million in 1982 to more than \$2.3 billion in 1989. In all, the federal government spent almost \$6 bil-

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COMMENTARY

Embracing TG Pride

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Pride is embracing transgender people, and transgender people are embracing Pride.

It strikes me that this year, as Pride rolls around, transgender people are involved at all levels of the event. There are transgender people serving from contingent monitors to board directors and from speakers to a "safety tent mom."

Even more than this, transgender people have taken it upon themselves to organize events of our own as part of Pride, like the June 25 Tranny March – featuring our own take on the larger event's Women's Motorcycle Contingent, the "Trannies on Trykes" [see *News in brief*, page 4].

This is working both ways. Our local event, under the direction of the LGBT Pride Celebration Committee, has made what seems a conscious effort to include more and more transgender programming over the last few years, including what looks to be the largest number of transgender performers ever on the main stage. Staff have even provided some tips and assistance for helping the first Tranny March be even more of a success.

This is all a marked difference from Pride events of three decades ago, where all forms of "drag" – which at that time included trans expression – were banned from Pride Parades. It's even a shift from things just a decade ago, when transgender activists were pushing Pride events on inclusion issues, like getting the word "transgender" included in the official event name.

When I attended my first Pride event, I saw only one other transgender person there the whole day. It was commonly felt within the trans community that we were simply not invited to the party, and were just not welcome.

There were no trans speakers or performers to be found on stage, and only a small amount of transgender content toward the end of the event. While "transgender" was included in the very title of the event, it was of the "small t" variety. It was there in name, but not in reality.

Now, only a few short years later, we've become a part of this event, and are not only welcomed within, but are contributing on all levels. Ever so slowly, we're reaching a place where that "small t" is turning into a "big T," and gaining an equal footing with the rest of the letters in the LGBT acronym.

There is still much to be done. Just the other night I was listening to some transfolks complain about an issue in the safety monitor training at Pride, and how some of the materials presented were, in a way, offensive to transgender people.

This is a process, and while we're far closer than in the past, we still have a ways to go. It's a matter of give-and-take, with transgender people coming into the community at large, and said community learning to foster transgender involvement.

Both sides still have a lot of distrust and misconceptions to deal with, but I do feel a lot of that will eventually be overcome.

Transgender involvement isn't just growing at Pride events, but is taking place throughout our larger community. For one, transgender people are starting to take active roles within LGBT organizations, and such organizations are also seriously looking at the needs of the transgender community.

It is also not without some difficulty. Some organizations remain resistant to seeking inclusion, or end up missing out on serving – and being served by – the transgender community by not seeking to understand where we are coming from, and how we can work together.

For example, I offer the Human Rights Campaign. HRC continues to exclude transgender people in the most important fights – the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, which was recently passed by the Senate – while using its best doublespeak to try and get transgender people to give the organization their money.

I hope that you'll look to those who are helping everyone in the community, like the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays before giving as much as a penny to HRC, but I digress.

In spite of these bumps in the road, forward motion continues, and we as a larger community grow ever stronger and more cohesive. At Pride, we can see our talents as a unified community, and feel first hand that strength we can gain from unity.

In Hayward, California a murder trial ended in a mistrial Tuesday morning with a jury struggling over the issue of "panic," this assumption that when Gwen Araujo's killers murdered her, they were somehow justified due to their own fears. Not fear of transgenderism itself, mind you, but their fear of that somehow making them gay.

Homophobic columnists and



Christine Smith

television pundits have claimed that gay marriage needs to be stopped, or else we'll end up with supposedly even worse things – like "transgender marriage." Never mind that such marriages already exist, they'd be happy to get rid of that option for all of us, and keep a grip on their own "special rights."

We still face – together – attacks from members of the radical right. We are all still framed as "evildoers" by some churches and religious leaders. We still seek justice, and still have to fight for our rights to work without prejudice, live without hate, and marry the person we love.

Conservative groups have grown strong not by remaining disparate, but by coming together and uniting over their common goals. I sense that if we learn anything from these people, it is that we need to do the same. I don't even want to think about the consequences we might suffer if we don't.

With all the attacks others are bringing forth on us, we benefit each other – and in this brief, shining moment we call pride, we can work together, and be a single community with one voice and one heart. ▼

Gwen Smith will see you at the main stage on Sunday, June 27, just a bit after 1 p.m. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com.

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Our Man Friday

◀ page 11

fighting to end discrimination that has for too long denied the rights and responsibilities of marriage to gay and lesbian couples."

No doubt, Herrera's leadership will be critical to San Francisco's efforts to end marriage discrimination in California, and in this Sunday's LGBT Pride Parade celebrating our community's quest for justice, we can be especially proud of the talented legal heroes like

Dennis Herrera and those talented people in his office who are dedicated to achieving it.

Mayor Gavin Newsom, City Attorney Dennis Herrera, Assessor Mabel Teng, Assemblyman **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco), Therese Stewart, Supervisors **Bevan Dufty** and **Tom Ammiano**, and revered lesbian icons **Phyllis Lyon** and **Del Martin** – these are some of the "Out 4 Justice" heroes this column would like to salute this week.

Have a wonderful Pride Week and a particularly joyous parade on Sunday, everyone. ▼

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2004 San Francisco Declaration of Gay Men's Rights and Responsibilities

1. We, as gay men, have a right to define "gay men's health" and to make informed choices about our health and health care.
2. We have the right to get quality health-care and social services, free from judgment, ridicule, condescension or coercion based on sexual orientation.
3. We have the right to get free and confidential HIV/STD counseling and testing.
4. We, as gay men, have a responsibility to know our own HIV/STD status if we're going to be sexually active.
5. If we are HIV negative, we have a responsibility to stay that way.
6. If we are HIV positive, we have a right to comprehensive care and treatment, and a responsibility to access the care we need.
7. We have the right to engage in the kinds of sex we want, as long as it's consensual, non-coercive and isn't hurting anyone.
8. We have the responsibility to share our HIV/STD status with men we bareback with, whether it's as a top or bottom.
9. We have a right to access condoms and lube and a responsibility to use them.
10. We have the right to form partnerships that are legally binding and equal to everyone else's, and the right to be a parent, have a family, and raise children.
11. We, as gay men, have the right to emotional and sexual relationships that are different from the social norms of marriage and monogamy; we have the right to determine what works for us and our partners.
12. We have the right to health education messages and materials targeting gay men that are produced without governmental and societal limitations in terms of their content and explicitness.
13. We have a right to culturally appropriate, informed substance abuse services and a responsibility to access them, and help our partners and friends access these services when needed.
14. We have the responsibility to hold other gay men accountable for their behavior, and they ours.
15. Together, we accept responsibility for the health and well-being of current and future generations of gay men.

What is done with us works better than what is done to us!

We are members of the "gay community". We can and must define what it means to be gay in 2004. We are claiming our right to define community. This declaration seeks to define a set of rights and responsibilities which will help us do a better job of taking care of ourselves and each other.

This is a living document. If you disagree with something here, let us know. If there is something that you feel must be added, let us know. If you have an idea for a project or a next step to improve gay life in San Francisco – join us! You can make a difference.



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Taking marriage fight east



Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) delivers his Assembly Joint Resolution 85 opposing the Federal Marriage Amendment to Democratic senators Monday, June 21 at a Democratic Senate Campaign Committee fundraiser at the home of Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Massachusetts) in Washington, D.C. From left, Senator Jon Corzine (D-New Jersey), Victoria Kennedy, Senator Kennedy, Leno, and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont).

Gay men work to build better community

by Matthew S. Bajko

San Francisco may be a gay mecca, but it can also be a lonely place for gay men. Many move here knowing no one and friendships only blossom over time.

While the Castro feels like home to some, others say it resembles more of a cold shoulder. Complaints about a lack of community have been voiced for years, by African Americans who feel discriminated against, or men who feel ignored because their bodies do not conform to a certain ideal.

Tired of bemoaning this paradox about gay life in San Francisco, a group of gay men have come together with a simple goal in mind: a friendlier, healthier gay community. Dubbed the Gay Men's Community Initiative, these men have decided to weave a new direction and have adopted an image of a quilt as their symbol.

The men surveyed other gay men throughout the city last sum-

mer about their concerns with the gay community.

"Their number one concern was a lack of community feeling," said Joe Imbriani, a health worker with the Department of Public Health who is helping to organize the new initiative. "I have lived here my whole life. I was surprised nobody expressed HIV as being an issue. Maybe it was in the top 10 but definitely not in the top five. No one ever said, 'I was afraid to get HIV.'"

"In San Francisco we are very fortunate to live in a city that is so open. We are such a big community that, in a sense, isolates people so they don't know where to fit in," added Vincent Fuqua, a DPH investigator brought in to work on the initiative. "A lot of men feel lost in a community so open and so big."

Out of the surveying, a group of about 30 men began meeting last fall to discuss what could be done to foster a sense of belonging among the city's gay men, who are estimated to number 63,000. Under the auspices of the health department, the men have begun

hosting events.

The first, a Memorial Day weekend beach party and picnic, called "Weenies at the Windmills," brought 30 men together. The second event, called "Wilde Chats" and modeled after informal discussions hosted by the philosopher Socrates, are held bimonthly at various cafes in the Castro on Saturday mornings.

"We are trying to make it a 'one gay bar' kind of town where all gay men can come together. We want to make everyone feel included, not excluded," Imbriani said during the first Wilde Chat, held at Cooper's near Duboce Park.

The chats are also a way for men to meet and mingle outside of a bar or sex club. The intent is to give gay guys an opportunity to speak their minds without fear of being ridiculed or ignored.

"People needed a space to talk. A non-threatening space to discuss what it means to be a gay man," said Doug Sebesta, an epidemiologist in the AIDS office who is supervising the initiative.

The men have also been walking in the Castro and just saying "hello" to people they meet on the street. The men are given a card with the initiative's e-mail address and phone number on one side and "Hi! That's All" printed on the other.

The whole concept, said Oscar Macias, who works at DPH, stems from the belief that "a person who feels part of a larger community will take care of himself. It will create a domino effect and we will see that behavior imitated in others."

The men are releasing a "San Francisco Declaration of Gay Men's Rights and Responsibilities" to stimulate an ongoing community-wide dialogue as to what exactly are gay men's responsibilities to each other and their rights as gay men living in a larger society. Over Pride weekend, the men will be passing out their cards, attempting to make men feel welcomed in San Francisco, one hello at a time.

"People expect a hidden agenda when you approach them. Here people just say 'Hi.' They are not being seen as invisible," said Fuqua. "It just brightens people's day."

Over the course of the summer, the group is planning numerous events, including a picnic in Golden Gate Park, forums on various issues and more Wilde Chats. The next one takes place at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 3 at the Castro Country Club, on 18th Street near Castro. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Araujo case

◀ page 1

ney's office plans to do, said Deputy District Attorney Chris Lamiero, the prosecutor in the case. But while the lack of resolution is "frustrating," he said, his subsequent interviews with jurors indicated that none of them were willing to accept a lesser conviction of manslaughter and had simply stalled on the distinctions between first- and second-degree murder charges.

This is significant, said Lamiero, because it means that a jury rejected the defense's "heat of passion" claims, and the family should "take comfort in the fact that this jury found the defendants guilty of murder. It's just a matter of degree."

The jurors' reported rejection of manslaughter also means, according to LGBT advocates, that they rejected the defense's frequent "gay panic" and transphobic rhetoric around Araujo's "sexual deception" that "tricked" the men into having "homosexual sex."

In fact, Michael Thorman, the defense attorney who most emphasized transphobia as a justification for murder, wound up with the most guilty votes for his client, Magidson.

"Eddie Araujo, or Gwen, has a right to be who she thinks she is. But a heterosexual male has a right to make choices for his life, and has a right to choose the gender of his partners," said Thorman during the case. "Eddie Araujo took away that choice by deception."

The final vote for a first-degree murder conviction for both Merel and Cazares was two jurors in favor and 10 opposed. The vote for Magidson was 7-5 in favor of his conviction.

Jurors were required to come to a unanimous decision for or against first-degree murder before they could even consider second-degree murder.

All murder cases start at a ground zero of second-degree murder, explained Lamiero to the family after court was adjourned. First-degree murder requires that premeditation be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. Second-degree murder is the act of knowingly inflicting fatal violence. Manslaughter is a legally acceptable provocation of deadly violence.

Some have speculated that because jurors obviously believed Magidson to be the most responsible for Araujo's death, they were uncomfortable delivering the same verdict for all of the defendants. If the deadlocked jurors compromised and convicted Magidson of second-degree murder, the only way to hold the others responsible in relation to Magidson could have been through manslaughter. Returning as a hung jury, therefore, may have been the only way to ensure that murder convictions would still be a future possibility.

"Even though I am disappointed by the delay in achieving justice for Gwen, I am heartened that these jurors refused to let these young men escape responsibility for their horrific choices," said Chris Daley of San Francisco's Transgender Law Center, referring to the jury's refusal to issue manslaughter convictions.

A retrial date is expected to be set July 30, but the case probably won't start until next year because of the attorneys' schedules. Any potential plea-bargains would most likely receive input from Araujo's family members, who said they were willing to try the case as often as it takes. The de-



The media surround Alameda County Deputy District Attorney Chris Lamiero after a mistrial was declared Tuesday.

fendants remain in custody.

From the beginning of the case, family members and supporters expressed concern that Araujo's life as a female – rather than as a man in drag, as the defense argued – was not given enough attention by the prosecution.

Choosing instead to argue the facts of the case and make the jury recognize the difference between manslaughter and murder, Lamiero's strategy often allowed false statements about Araujo's identity and experience – and transgenders in general – to go unchallenged.

While they praised Lamiero for his thorough job and dedication, family members also expressed their desire that transgender identities be defined and explained more thoroughly in the retrial. Jurors may not have been willing to accept manslaughter, they said, but if they saw Araujo as the young woman she was, they would not have hesitated on murder convictions.

The local LGBT community has echoed that sentiment.

The San Francisco LGBT Community Center on Tuesday called for the Alameda County D.A.'s office to retry the case and "work with community members to ensure that they have the tools necessary to counter the defense team's outrageous attempts to blame Gwen for her own murder."

that the case will be retried, and that the jurors rejected a defense argument that asked for manslaughter or acquittal.

"The jury did not buy the hateful transgender panic defense given, and the defendants were not exonerated," said Leno. "And really, what kind of defense is there for such a brutal and beastly attack on an innocent, beautiful young person?"

Leno added that "if there is anything positive" to be taken from the experience, it is that "losing Gwen has allowed some consciousness to be raised in the general public" and that many people have learned that "our transgender brothers and sisters are owed

the same respect we would afford anyone else we know."

On Tuesday night, a rally was held at Harvey Milk Plaza calling for justice for Araujo. ▼

Tomorrow, Friday, June 25 is San Francisco's first Transgender March. Participants will meet at Dolores Park at 5 p.m. and the march will kick off at 7. Araujo's family members plan to attend and have invited any and all supporters to march with them. For more on the story of Gwen Araujo, including interviews with her family, see the Pride section in this issue.

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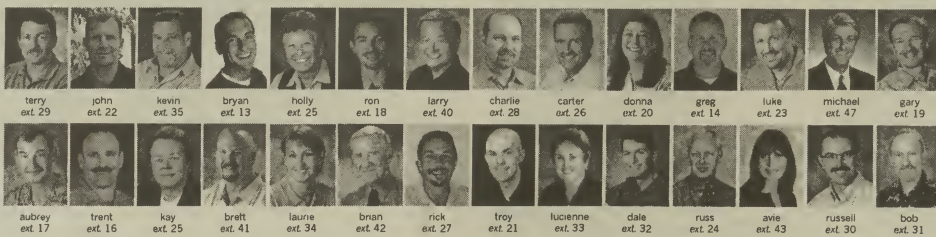
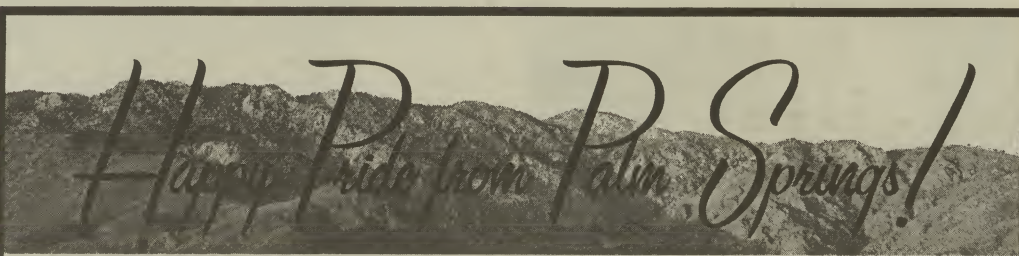
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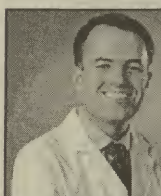
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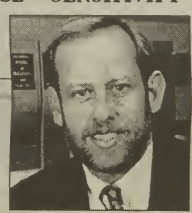
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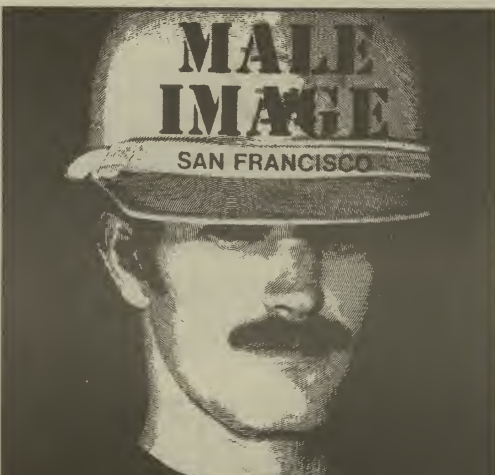
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Conant awards HIV conference scholarship

by Cynthia Laird

The Conant Foundation – started by well-known AIDS physician Dr. Marcus Conant – has awarded a \$5,000 scholarship to HIV prevention worker Keith Folger who will be traveling to Bangkok next month to attend the XV International AIDS Conference.

Folger, who was recently laid off from the Stop AIDS Project due to the agency's budget cuts, nonetheless said he is looking forward to attending the conference, and has been looking for work in the HIV field.

Folger is the co-author, along with researchers at the Department of Public Health, of two papers that will be discussed at the conference. The first looks at why bisexual men have a lower incidence of seroconversion, while the second looks at San Francisco's HIV rate and why it has started declining in recent years.

"We attribute the lower incidence of seroconversion in bisexual men to the fact that they only have gay sex part of the time," Folger said.

As for the lower HIV rate, Folger said research has shown that recent prevention for HIV-positive people has helped stem the number of infections.

During a check presentation June 10, Conant said that this year, his foundation had about 20 applicants for the scholarship, which is named after Scott Dowie, the first executive director of the foundation who died of AIDS-related complications in 2000. Conant started the scholarship two years ago. The foundation was started in 1989.

"We used a rating system and looked at it in terms of prior experience and programs they developed," Conant said of the scholarship screening process.

Folger said he's only been to one other international AIDS gathering, the one held in San Francisco several years ago. He was protesting at that one, he recalled.

Conant will also be attending this year's conference, and while he knows most of what will be presented, he plans to talk with colleagues about what they're working on now that may be presented in future research. He is particularly interested in entirely new approaches to treatment and what new drugs are on the horizon.



Keith Folger accepts a \$5,000 scholarship check from Dr. Marcus Conant.

In 1981, Conant identified the first cases of Kaposi's sarcoma in San Francisco and started the Kaposi's Sarcoma Clinic at the University of California, San Francisco. The next year, with Frank Jacobsen and Richard Keller, he started the organization that became the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. His activities in the early days of the AIDS epidemic are chronicled in Randy Shilt's book, *And the Band Played On*.

He has also done work on medical marijuana and was one of the doctors embroiled in a lengthy legal dispute with the federal government over the issue. Last year the group won its case when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal by the Justice Department. The case involved physicians' abilities to talk with their patients about the potential benefits of medical marijuana, which the federal government opposed, even if the doctors were not themselves distributing the drug.

"It began in the Clinton administration," Conant said of the legal action, when former drug czar Barry McCaffrey sued him. Conant promptly filed a counter-suit, and became the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union.

"The point I kept trying to make was if the federal government wants to intimidate doctors, all they have to do is put a wire on some nice patient and she'll come in and close the door" and ask about medical marijuana, he explained.

"I could go to prison or lose my license," he said of the consequences had he lost the case.

"Federal prosecutors are not interested in doing the right thing – they're interested in their careers and that means getting convictions," Conant added.

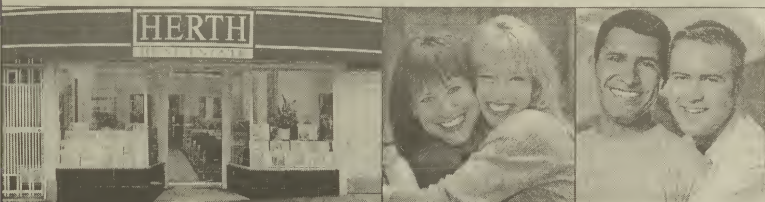
Public forums

The Conant Foundation is also known for its free community forums after major HIV/AIDS conferences and on other topics of interest to the community. The foundation will be holding one such forum on Tuesday, June 29 on side effects and drug-drug interactions of HIV drugs and those used to treat erectile dysfunction, such as Viagra, Cialis, Levitra, and Caverjet. The forum takes place from 6-8 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. Light refreshments will be served at the beginning of the forum. For more information or to RSVP, call (415) 255-0806.

The foundation is also planning a forum after the AIDS conference on July 27, also at the LGBT center.

The Kaiser Family Foundation has announced that free online coverage of the July 11-16 AIDS conference will be provided daily at www.kaisernetwork.org/aids2004. To sign up, visit www.kff.org/aids2004. Coverage will include live and tape-delayed webcasts, and transcripts of the opening and closing ceremonies, plenary sessions, and other select sessions. ▼

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Local gay Asians launch China AIDS Fund

by Matthew S. Bajko

As AIDS leaves a wide swath of devastation in China, where world health officials estimate up to 20 million people could become HIV-positive by 2010, a group of local Asians is trying to fight the growing epidemic.

Like the early days of the AIDS epidemic in America, when activists accused the late President Ronald Reagan of being slow to respond to the plague targeting gay men, the Chinese government has reacted tepidly. Communist leaders there have officially reported only 850,000 cases of HIV, which health officials say is a gross undercount. In China's gay community alone, it is estimated 2 million people have contracted HIV.

The group of Asian men — many of them gay — and one woman began meeting last summer to map out a strategy to help those living with HIV in China. Most had experience doing AIDS work with the Bay Area's Asian community and now wanted to engage on a more global level.

They formulated an idea for the AIDS Relief Fund for China, a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to fund small, grassroots efforts by local Chinese groups and individuals working on HIV prevention and education.



Activists of AIDS Relief for China, from left: Dan Chin, Max Lau, and Humphrey Wou welcomed the stars of *Better Luck Tomorrow* Roger Fan and Karin Anna Cheung to their kickoff reception June 15.

"It feels like this is an opportune time for people who have followed the course of the epidemic here in the U.S. from preventing what could be an epidemic in China," said Steve Lew, a member of the group and a former Clinton appointee to the president's advisory council on HIV and AIDS.

With very few resources, the fund can make a huge impact; the members said. It only costs 600 yen, or \$75 per month, to pay a person in China to do HIV peer education work.

"We can actually give them a little bit of money to help them get out of the situation they are in now. You don't have to wait to win the lottery, retire, or speak Chinese to help. We can all afford to be compassionate," said Humphrey Wou, co-chair of the fund's board, who is an openly gay Hong Kong-born Chinese American. "Selfishly speaking, it makes me feel good to know a person in the U.S. can do something to help someone in a Third World country."

The fund would like to raise \$150,000 by the end of 2004. In late 2003 the fund's board of directors and advisory group invited their friends to a fundraiser at a restaurant in Japantown. The evening garnered \$40,000 in donations.

Members of the board have also visited China twice this spring at their own expense, traveling to small villages and major

cities meeting with local activists. Wou has been traveling to China for the last four years meeting with people impacted by AIDS.

During one of his most recent visits he traveled to Xichang, the capital of Liangshan Prefecture in Sichuan, and made a documentary about drug users and sex workers infected by HIV. He acknowledges the fund's board faces no easy task in convincing the Bay Area Asian community to care about the plight of villagers half a world away.

"Raising awareness here is not always easy because we are living in San Francisco and a lot of people's attentions are focused in the local area. Also, the Asian community we are in contact with they don't really have that much connection with China. Maybe their parents or grandparents came from China but that doesn't mean they themselves have feelings for China," said Wou.

Max Lau, who is also gay and an adviser to the fund, is doing more than just donating money. The founder and publisher of *Noodle*, a gay Asian magazine he folded in March, Lau is moving to Zhuhai, a city in Guangdong Province about an hour outside Hong Kong. He leaves Saturday, June 26 and plans to spend at least a year in China on a voluntary basis meeting with the fund's

page 24 ►



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Important Safety Information

Injection Site Reactions (ISRs): ISRs are the most common side effect seen with FUZEON use. Almost all people taking FUZEON (98%) get injection site reactions. 3% of patients quit taking FUZEON because of ISRs. Reactions are usually mild to moderate but occasionally may be severe. Signs/symptoms may include pain and discomfort, hardened skin, redness, bumps, itching and swelling. 9% of patients had ISRs that required them to take over-the-counter pain medicine or limit their usual activities.

Pneumonia: Patients taking FUZEON with other anti-HIV medicines got bacterial pneumonia more often than patients not taking FUZEON. It is unclear if this was related to the use of FUZEON. You should contact your healthcare provider right away if you have a cough, fever or trouble breathing. Patients are more likely to get bacterial pneumonia if they have a low number of CD4 cells, have a high viral load, use intravenous (injected into the vein) drugs, smoke or have had lung disease in the past.

Allergic reactions: Allergic reactions have been seen with FUZEON and can occur if FUZEON is restarted. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with FUZEON can include rash, fever, nausea and vomiting, chills, shaking, low blood pressure and increased liver enzymes. Other adverse events that may be an immune response and have been reported in patients taking FUZEON include serious immune system reactions, severe breathing difficulties, inflammation of the kidney and Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Other Side Effects: The side effects seen most often in patients taking FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines were diarrhea (26.8%), nausea (20.1%) and fatigue (16.1%). These side effects were seen less often than in patients taking anti-HIV medicines without FUZEON: diarrhea (33.5%), nausea (23.7%) and fatigue (17.4%). This list of side effects is not complete because FUZEON is still being studied.

If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or worsening symptoms to your healthcare provider.



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For additional details on FUZEON, please see the accompanying summary of complete product information.
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PATIENT INFORMATION

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This leaflet contains important information for patients and their caregivers about FUZEON. Please read this leaflet and FUZEON Injection Instructions carefully before you start using FUZEON. Always read the section "Changes since the last version of this leaflet" at the end of this leaflet each time you get your FUZEON prescription refilled. There may be important new information about the use of FUZEON.

This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical conditions or treatment.

What is FUZEON?

FUZEON is a medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) fusion inhibitor. FUZEON is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat adults and children aged 6 years and older with HIV infection. FUZEON is not used by itself to treat HIV infection.

FUZEON blocks HIV's ability to infect healthy CD4 cells. When used with other anti-HIV medicines, FUZEON can reduce the amount of HIV in the blood and increase the number of CD4 cells. This may keep your immune system healthy, so it can help fight infection.

FUZEON does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of FUZEON are not known at this time. People taking FUZEON may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that can happen with HIV infection. **For these reasons, it is very important that you remain under the care of your healthcare provider while taking FUZEON.**

Does FUZEON lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?

FUZEON does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through unprotected sex, sharing needles or being exposed to your blood. For your own health and the health of others, it is important to continue to practice safer sex. Use a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions or blood. Never use or share dirty needles. Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

Who should not use FUZEON?

Do not use FUZEON if you are allergic to any of the ingredients in FUZEON. See the end of this leaflet for a list of ingredients in FUZEON.

Tell your healthcare provider:

- **if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** We do not know if FUZEON can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if FUZEON is right for you. If you use FUZEON while you are pregnant, talk with your healthcare provider about how you can be in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **if you are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if FUZEON can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby.
- **about all your medical conditions.**
- **about all the medicines you use,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. FUZEON has not been tested with all medicines.

How should I use FUZEON?

Before you use FUZEON, make sure you understand all of the information in this leaflet and the FUZEON Injection Instructions that come with your medicine. You or your caregiver should be trained by a healthcare provider before injecting it. If you do not understand all the information, talk with your healthcare provider about your questions or concerns.

- Use FUZEON with other anti-HIV medicines. **Do not use FUZEON as your only anti-HIV medicine.**
- FUZEON must be injected. FUZEON does not work if it is swallowed.
- Do not mix other medicines in the same syringe with FUZEON.
- FUZEON is given under the skin by injection (a "shot") in the upper arm, upper leg or abdomen two times a day. See the FUZEON Injection Instructions that come with your medicine for step-by-step instructions about how to inject FUZEON.
- Do not inject FUZEON in the same area as you did the time before. Do not inject FUZEON into the following areas: around the navel (belly button), scar tissue, a bruise or a mole, or where there is an injection site reaction.
- Do not inject FUZEON if you see particles floating in the FUZEON vial after you mix it.
- You can use FUZEON whether you have eaten or not. Food does not affect FUZEON. However, you must keep taking your other medicines the way you did before.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking FUZEON without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- See your healthcare provider regularly while using FUZEON.
- When your FUZEON supply runs low, be sure to have it refilled. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. If you miss or skip doses of FUZEON, HIV may develop resistance to FUZEON and become harder to treat.
- If you miss a dose of FUZEON, take the missed dose as soon as you can and then take your next dose as scheduled. If you have missed a dose of FUZEON and it is close to the time when you are supposed to take your next dose, wait and take the next dose as regularly scheduled. Do not take two doses of FUZEON at the same time.

• If you take too much FUZEON, call your healthcare provider right away. We do not know what can happen if you take too much FUZEON. You will be watched very carefully if you take too much FUZEON.

• **It is important that you put your used syringes into a special sharps container after injecting FUZEON.** Your healthcare provider will give you more instructions about the safe disposal of your used syringes. **Do not put them in a trash can.** If you do not have a sharps container, call your healthcare provider or pharmacist to get one before using FUZEON.

Can FUZEON be used with other medicines?

• FUZEON does not affect other anti-HIV medicines or the medicine rifampin (also known as rifampicin and manufactured under the brand names Rifadin® and Rimactane®). You can take FUZEON at the same times or at different times than your other anti-HIV medicines.

What should I avoid while using FUZEON?

- Avoid doing anything that can spread HIV infection, since FUZEON does not stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
- Do not share needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions or blood.
- Do not drive or operate heavy machinery if FUZEON makes you feel dizzy.

What are the possible side effects of FUZEON?**Injection site reactions**

FUZEON causes injection site reactions. Almost all people get injection site reactions with FUZEON. Reactions are usually mild to moderate but occasionally may be severe. Reactions on the skin where FUZEON is injected include:

- itching
- swelling
- redness
- pain or tenderness
- hardened skin
- bumps

These reactions generally happen within the first week of FUZEON treatment and usually happen again as you keep using FUZEON. A reaction at one skin injection site usually lasts for less than 7 days.

Injection site reactions may be worse when injections are given again in the same place on the body or when the injection is given deeper than it should be (for example, into the muscle).

If you are worried about the reaction you are having, call your healthcare provider to help you decide if you need medical care. **If the injection site reaction you are having is severe, call your healthcare provider right away.** If you have an injection site reaction, you can discuss with your healthcare provider ways to help the symptoms.

An injection site can get infected. To lower your chances of getting an injection site infection, it is important to follow the FUZEON Injection Instructions that come with your medicine. **Call your healthcare provider right away if there are signs of infection at the injection site such as oozing, increasing heat, swelling, redness or pain.**

Pneumonia

Patients with HIV get bacterial pneumonia more often than patients without HIV. In clinical trials, patients taking FUZEON with other HIV medicines got bacterial pneumonia more often than patients not receiving FUZEON. It is unclear if this was related to the use of FUZEON. **You should contact your healthcare provider right away if you have a cough, fever or trouble breathing.** Patients are more likely to get bacterial pneumonia if they had a low number of CD4 cells, increased amount of HIV in the blood, intravenous (injected into the vein) drug use, smoking or had experienced lung disease in the past. It is unclear if pneumonia is related to FUZEON.

Allergic reactions

FUZEON can cause serious allergic reactions. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with FUZEON can include:

- trouble breathing
- fever with vomiting and a skin rash
- blood in your urine
- swelling of your feet

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of these symptoms.

Other side effects

The following side effects were seen more often in patients using FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines than in patients not using FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines:

- pain and numbness in feet or legs
- loss of sleep
- depression
- decreased appetite
- weakness or loss of strength
- muscle pain
- constipation
- pancreas problems

These are not all the side effects of FUZEON. The list of side effects with FUZEON is not complete at this time because FUZEON is still being studied.

If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. **Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will tell you what to do and may be able to help you with these side effects.

How is FUZEON stored?

FUZEON vials not mixed with sterile water can be stored at room temperature (59° to 86° F). FUZEON should be refrigerated if it cannot be stored at room temperature. The Sterile Water for Injection (diluent) may be stored at room temperature (59° to 86° F).

After FUZEON has been mixed with the sterile water, the vial can be stored in a refrigerator for up to 24 hours.

Do not use FUZEON or sterile water after the expiration date on the vials. Do not keep FUZEON that is out of date or that you no longer need.

General information about the safe and effective use of FUZEON

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use FUZEON for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give FUZEON to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep FUZEON and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about FUZEON. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or see the section, "Where can I get more information about FUZEON?" in this leaflet. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about FUZEON that is written for healthcare professionals.

What are the ingredients in FUZEON?

Active Ingredients: enfuvirtide

Inactive Ingredients: Mannitol, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid.

FUZEON comes packaged as a convenience kit containing the following:

- 60 vials of FUZEON (2 cartons of 30 each)
- 60 vials of Sterile Water for Injection (2 cartons of 30 each)
- syringes for mixing (3 mL/cc)
- syringes for injecting (1 mL/cc)
- alcohol pads
- injection instructions

Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you need more supplies.

Where can I get more information about FUZEON?

The best source for more information about FUZEON is your healthcare provider. More information about FUZEON is located at www.fuzeon.com and 1-877-4 FUZEON (1-877-438-9366).

Changes since the last version of this leaflet

This is the first version of this leaflet; it was written in March 2003. Please check this section when your medicine is refilled for any important new information about FUZEON.

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Mass. gov backs FMA

by Bob Roehr

The Senate Judiciary Committee turned again to the subject of same-sex marriage and the proposal to add the Federal Marriage Amendment to the Constitution that would ban it. This time it was a June 22 meeting of the full committee, chaired by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah). Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, whose state began offering marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples last month, was the star witness for amendment proponents.

"Traditional marriage is under attack," asserted Hatch in his opening statement. "Courts and renegade public officials, not conservative activists, have made this a national issue. If we are to protect and strengthen the institution of marriage, there appears to be no way around the constitutional solution to this problem."

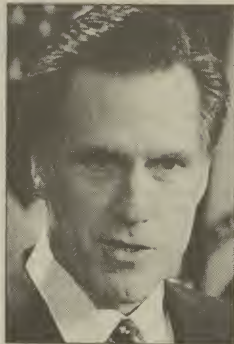
Reflecting on the fact that Massachusetts began to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples on May 17, Hatch said, "The point is not that civilization will come to a screeching halt, but that people begin an unprecedented and unwise slide into accepting a divorce between marriage and child-rearing. For this reason, many believe same-sex marriage will likely act to undermine the health of families over time."

Ranking Democrat Patrick Leahy (Vermont) lambasted the hearing and the amendment as politics pure and simple. "This debate is not about preserving the sanctity of marriage, it is about preserving a Republican White House and Senate."

He chastised the committee for finding time to hold four hearings on same-sex marriage "Instead of hearings on the abuses at Abu Ghraib, the FBI's troubling and costly computer problems, FBI lab problems, [and the] FBI foreign translation problems..."

Romney (R) devoted most of his opening statement to a factual recitation of the course of events in his state, characterizing the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's decision as "a fundamental break with all of our laws, experiences and traditions," which he opposes.

He raised some of the issues of how the state might spend federal money and qualify beneficiaries for programs. "For example, we have been told that we cannot use



Mass. Governor Mitt Romney

federal funds to provide meals for an elderly same-sex spouse if the person's eligibility for the services is due to their spousal status."

Romney called for "An amendment that restores and protects our societal definition of marriage, blocks judges from changing that definition and then, consistent with the principles of federalism, leaves other policy issues regarding marriage to state legislatures."

Bob Barr, the conservative Republican and former congressman from Georgia, was the sole witness to speak against the FMA. He was disturbed by the rush to get it to a vote on the floor of the Senate. "I urge you, Mr. Chairman, to oppose efforts to circumvent your committee on an issue of such monumental, lasting and wide-ranging importance."

He harshly criticized the actions of San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and the Massachusetts high court in pushing for gay marriage. "However, some of my fellow social conservatives are today pulling a Newsom with the Federal Marriage Amendment, and even more indefensible from a conservative perspective, they are trying to use the Constitution as their tool."

Barr then turned his attention to Mitt Romney. "The governor is pleading for this Congress and the federal government to protect him against the Massachusetts state Constitution, the Massachusetts Legislature, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, and most ironically, the people of Massachusetts if they eventually ratify the proposed Massachusetts constitutional amendment."

He invoked federalism in argu-

ing against the FMA. "Marriage is a quintessential state issue." And Barr worried, "If we begin to treat the constitution as our personal sandbox, in which to build and destroy castles as we please, we risk diluting the grandeur of having a constitution in the first place."

Barr acknowledged "the erosion of the nuclear family. ... Restoring stability to these families is a tough problem, and requires careful, thoughtful and, yes, tough solutions. But homosexual couples seeking to marry did not cause this problem, and the Federal Marriage Amendment cannot be the solution."

Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign and a former Massachusetts state senator, said, "Clearly you do not have to support same-sex marriage rights to be against the FMA. Bob Barr and I see eye-to-eye that this amendment would undermine our Constitution."

"Not one more dime of taxpayer money should be wasted debating a discriminatory amendment that its sponsors already admit has no chance of passing," said Patrick Guerriero, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "It is an abuse of the constitutional process and a disservice to the American people to ignore the important business pending before the Senate in order to play politics with our nation's founding document."

The Senate Republican leadership has said it will schedule a vote on the FMA in mid-July, though it is not clear what language will be put to a vote.

Social conservatives continue to assert that politics is not involved in scheduling a vote on the FMA immediately prior to the Democratic National Convention, but few observers buy that argument; they say it's all about politics.

One concern is whether Senator John Kerry (D-Massachusetts), the presumed Democratic presidential nominee, will be present to vote on the amendment or whether he conveniently will be on the campaign trail.

There also is a growing fear among gay advocates that Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) will renege on his stated opposition to the FMA and vote for it. The vote may be an issue in his tight re-election campaign. If Daschle caves in to right wing pressure then several other Democrats are likely to follow. ▼



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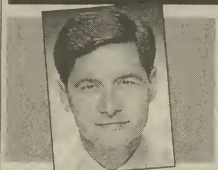
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CHR H105-18270-03

Massachusetts' 1913 marriage law challenged

by Bob Roehr

A pair of lawsuits was filed in Boston on June 17 to strike down the 1913 law that Massachusetts Republican Governor Mitt Romney is using to prevent out of state same-sex couples from marrying. Democratic Attorney General Thomas Reilly has backed up Romney with a letter to town clerks ordering them not to perform such marriages.

The attorneys general of New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have offered varying interpretations that same-sex marriages conducted in Massachusetts might be recognized under their state laws.

One of the legal challenges is by eight gay and lesbian couples who reside in the six states that adjoin Massachusetts; the other is by a dozen local jurisdictions in the state that issue marriage licenses. The lawsuits were filed one month to the day after the state began issuing marriage license to same-sex couples.

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders filed the suit on behalf of the couples. The group led the fight in the Massachusetts courts to win the right to marry.

"We believe that Section 11 [the 1913 law that was created to stop interracial marriage in Massachusetts by those whose home states did not allow it] violates

both the liberty and equality provisions of the Massachusetts Constitution," said GLAD attorney Mary Bonauto.

"This was a law that clerks were instructed to ignore for decades, yet the governor pulled it off the shelves just to deny marriage to some gay and lesbian couples. Plainly stated, the constitution trumps Section 11 under the Goodridge decision" that said barring same-sex marriage was unconstitutional, Bonauto added.

Harvard law professor Randall Kennedy added, "That authorities today would seek to [confine] the Supreme Judicial Court's landmark Goodridge ruling by resuscitating a statute tainted by racism is profoundly disturbing and regrettable."

The suit also claims that the 1913 provision violates the privileges and immunities clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The eight couples who are the plaintiffs provide an extraordinary tableau of gays and lesbians within society. Among them are doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers, and an agent with the FBI.

Lead plaintiffs Sandi and Bobbi Cote-Whitacre, Vermont residents in their mid-50s, met 36 years ago when both were in the Army. Sandi works for the Department of Homeland Security and Bobbi for the state. A doctor refused to honor their power of attorney when Sandi had medical problems.

"We don't discriminate in Somerville City Hall, and we're not about to start now," said Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, one of the towns that filed a lawsuit. "This goes beyond the issue of whether or not you agree with same-sex marriage or not. It's a question of fairness and equity."

"This is a law that we have not enforced in most of the lifetimes of the people that have been working here," said Michael Sullivan, the mayor of Cambridge. "There is inherent discrimination to it, and on top of that there is the potential that as a community we would be a defendant in a case" filed by couples denied a license.

Both cases seek to enjoin enforcement of the dated statute and to have it declared unconstitutional. ▼

AIDS in China

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grantees and locating other projects the group can fund.

He plans to focus most of his efforts within the gay community, which is still largely closeted and underground.

"There are no magazines in China that tell you which gay bars to go to, which saunas or places to go to," said Lau. "Everything is found on the Internet or through friends you know."

Lau plans to move in with his boyfriend, an interior designer he met two months ago on a visit to China. Most men in China who are gay, he said, have a wife and children as well as a boyfriend on the side.

"There is huge pressure to get married, not only through family but business," he said. At the same time, he found "a very thriving gay community. The bars are always crowded."

Condoms, however, are not handed out at most gay bars or bathhouses. Men who enter the saunas are simply handed a bag containing soap. There are no signs about safe sex or information about HIV, he said.

"They are scared the police will

come in and see condoms that they will think this establishment is a place where gay sex is happening. Of course it is happening, they just don't want the visibility of having condoms around," said Lau.

The fund has already helped pay one group of gay activists to begin to hand out condoms. The fund's board has also made donations to create a pen pal club between Beijing University students and AIDS orphans in Henan; an HIV/AIDS peer education project at Jiaotong University in Shanghai and at university campuses in Chongqing; the printing of an AIDS awareness brochure in Henan; and peer education work with sex workers and drug users in Xichang, Sichuan.

"Our focus is not just on the gay community in China but to combat the stigma of HIV in China," said Lew, who is president of Project Inform's board. "We are part of several other global AIDS groups trying to make a difference there."

Lew, who is also gay, said the fund hopes to create "an active, credible network of advisers in China who are not only helping us but supporting the development of a network of activists in China."

For more information, visit www.aidsreliefchina.org or call (415) 820-9630. ▼

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Foraging for health

Urban Forage creates a raw-food sensation

by Mark Mardon

Of all the dreams germinated in the harsh desert environment of Burning Man, which once a year grows lush with art and ideas, none has managed to sprout as quickly and verdantly in San Francisco as Urban Forage, the new vegan, raw-food, organics restaurant and juice bars that have popped up in the Lower Haight and the Inner Mission, and soon will blossom in the heart of the Castro.

Created by partners Steven Burbank, Tanya Einhorn, Adrian English, and Liam Supple, Urban Forage soon will have three retail outlets in addition to a separate central kitchen serving them all. Together they will offer San Francisco's health-food-conscious citizenry a vast array of delicious salads, soups, hearty rice bowls, fresh wraps, veggie burgers, bean pots, hot brews and elixirs, and organic smoothies and juices, all enchantingly refreshing. Everything on the menu is vegan (except optional honey). You'll find no coffee, but you'll find invigorating hot drinks with yerba maté and herbs, along with savory hemp-almond milk treats. You'll find a delectable arugula salad, black-bean burgers with various piquant sauces, a tasty, exotic Thai wrap with home-made kim chi, and a portabella mushroom stuffed with walnut fennel paté that will make you forget you ever imagined raw-food recipes were boring. At Urban Forage, the proprietors, staff and volunteers all project a faerie spirit, working magic to create an ecologically sound enterprise, generating excitement around Einhorn's distinctive raw-food/vegan menu, in the process demonstrating their commitment to strengthening people's physical health and spiritual well-being.

"This is food that brings your body back into its natural bal-

ance," raw-food chef extraordinaire Einhorn said of the Urban Forage offerings. "Part of my intention, part of my philosophy, part of what I'm striving to do with Urban Forage is to provide daily fare. This is the food that, by eating it on a daily basis, is going to heal you, and prolong your health. Those things aren't the super fancy things. I'm talking brown rice and steamed vegetables."

Einhorn and Burbank met at Burning Man in 2002. She and Burbank connected spiritually and philosophically out in the desert (as so many do), and started talking about opening a space in San Francisco for healing.

"At Burning Man," Einhorn said, "I was running a kitchen for our camp, feeding about 130 people two meals a day in the desert for five days. All vegan and organic! We brought a hundred cases of coconuts. We had propane stoves, a U-Haul truck packed to the gills. We had a dome that we turned into our kitchen. It was a tremendously magical experience. So I think Steven was amazed."

Burbank agreed, saying that when he met Einhorn on the playa, "I saw she had a gift for working with food, and so I wanted to create a structure that would facilitate bringing that gift into the world."

Burbank's financial investment and deep personal involvement in Urban Forage grew out of his desire to create a company that worked hard to bring people into full self-expression, that helped them "bring their gift into the world." He imagined a place where customers, employees, and proprietors all could find spiritual sustenance and growth. The main ingredient would be the food.

'Totally transformed'

Einhorn came back from Burning Man "totally trans-

formed, and feeling I could do anything." She continued working for herself doing raw-food catering, as well as working with the Oxygen bar on Valencia Street. Then one day Burbank called her up and said there was an empty space at 14th & Guerrero that might serve as the healing space they envisioned. They went to look at it, and though it didn't work out, they'd set the ball rolling. That was early November 2002, and they started spending as much time as possible visioning and planning, working with the question: What do you want?

"We looked at a lot of different spaces," said Einhorn. "Then I heard through the grapevine that the owner of Feelmore Juice was selling, so I called him up; I had a connection with him because he was a DJ at the Oxygen bar. He knew me and my food, and he had been negotiating with someone else who wanted to do coffee in the space, and he actually was happier and more inclined to sell the business to us, because he knew that we were going to build on his vision."

There she developed a menu of raw foods, juices, smoothies, and Burbank carved out a space called "The Hive," a sweet meditation/yoga/tai chi/chanting space where teachers lead classes on a regular basis.

They opened the doors of the original Urban Forage, at 254 Fillmore Street, at Haight, on February 17, 2003, and immediately were busy, busy, busy.

Instant audience

"It would appear that we're opening into instant profitability," said Supple, sitting in the space he did much to create, at 561 Valencia Street, where Urban Forage now occupies what used to be his Lunch Club, a restaurant that dabbled in organics, in a space featuring spectacular (albeit ecologically questionable) mahogany shelv-



From left, Liam Supple, Steven Burbank, and Tanya Einhorn at their Valencia Street restaurant.

ing now adorning one large wall section of Urban Forage, giving the restaurant a glowing wooden

warmth. Hanging plants now adorn the space, with fine art on

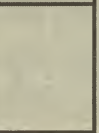
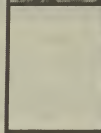
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Power of Pride!

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because of the recent focus on gay marriage and the proposed amendment that would permanently write discrimination against gay couples and families into the U.S. Constitution. In fact Pride was already showing tinges of returning to its roots last year, on the heels of the U.S. Supreme Court's favorable sodomy ruling and America's controversial wars in the Middle East.

Additionally, the trial for the three men accused of murdering transgender teenager Gwen Araujo began in April, although it ended in a mistrial earlier this week. On Tuesday, the SF Pride board voted to dedicate this year's parade and festival to Araujo.

"Gay issues mean way more than marriage," said Cain, noting that the "Out 4 Justice" theme was chosen before the marriage issue heated up. "We also support a woman's right to choose, and housing and healthcare issues. Human issues are queer issues."

Pride-sanctioned public festivities begin Saturday, June 26, at noon, with the annual outdoor festival at Civic Center featuring speakers, rallies, and performers. The world-famous Pride Parade is Sunday, June 27, at 10:30 a.m. from Market and Beale streets to Market and Eighth. The parade is followed by a larger festival that runs until 7 p.m. and features numerous stages, a variety of celebrity headliners, several venues for dancing and mingling, and blocks and blocks of booths of vendors and nonprofit groups. The event has attracted crowds of 1 million people in the past, with hundreds of thousands of them coming

from out of town.

Related Pride parties are promoted on the Pride Web site at www.sfpd.org. A quick glimpse shows a genderqueer social tonight (Thursday, June 24), from 7-9 p.m. hosted by Lyon-Martin Women's Clinic; the first ever Tranny March on Friday, June 25; the annual Dyke March in Dolores Park on Saturday, June 26, which kicks off the "Pink Saturday" street party; Black Pride and Latin Pride brunches and dances; a photo show at the LGBT Community Center featuring the historic San Francisco gay marriages; a deaf gathering on Friday night at Muddy Waters on Church Street; the annual "Fencesitters Ball" on Saturday night for the bisexual community; and a Dignity/SF Pride Liturgy Catholic Mass on Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Pride highlights

Don't let your evening indulgences hinder your ability to wake up in time for all the daytime activities in town.

The SF Pride Festival on Saturday features main stage performances and presentations, with a noon "Stand Against Hate" rally hosted by Community United Against Violence.

At 1 p.m., a partner ceremony will take place, featuring the mass exchanging of vows by committed couples and registration of domestic partnership at the state level. The event is open to the public and requires identification and fees for registration.

Afternoon entertainment includes Sean Wiggins, Gina Livingston, Cheer SF, and Blue Buddha. At 3:10 p.m., headliner Jacqui Naylor takes the stage, performing her widely renowned jazz numbers. She will be followed by Dangerous Martini; Bettina Devin; and Lonnie Tuck.

Saturday afternoon is the world famous San Francisco Dyke March, which begins with a rally

in Dolores Park at 3:30 p.m.; the march kicks off at 7 (see story, page 3).

The Dyke March is traditionally followed by an unofficial "Pink Saturday" street party in the Castro where visitors and locals alike can view and partake in all the activities their mothers warned them about.

Sunday morning means those hoping for a great view of the parade should begin lining up along Market Street early. Spectators are welcome free of charge, or "grandstand seating" is available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$30, although it is almost sold out.

At 10:30 a.m., as is tradition, the parade kicks off with the SF Women's Motorcycle Contingent. There are nearly 200 parade contingents this year and thousands of marchers - representing the LGBT community in all of its diversity, from religious groups to labor activists to youth and family organizations to sexy go-go dancers, embracing political and cultural messages as varied as the world at large.

Parade grand marshals include actor Alan Cumming and comedian and actor Bruce Vilanch as celebrity honorees. Community grand marshals, profiled in the *Bay Area Reporter's* Pride section, are black activist and former Pride President Calvin Gipson; nightclub producer Heklin; visual artist Happy Hyder; progressive activist Kate Raphael; and the Reverend Troy Perry, who is "Lifetime Achievement" grand marshal. Mayor Gavin Newsom and Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng have also been named grand marshals for their work with the gay marriages that took place earlier this year.

The organization grand marshal this year is Immigration Equality for its work on behalf of bi-national LGBT couples.

Cumming, Vilanch, and comedian Graham Norton will be at

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Did mayor's office slight grand marshals?

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Pride officials have bruised feelings over a decision by Mayor Gavin Newsom's office not to issue individual certificates to this year's community grand marshals, and some are wondering if politics played a role in the decision.

Teddy Witherington, Pride executive director, told the *Bay Area Reporter* Monday, June 21 that Joe Caruso, the director of the mayor's office of neighborhood services, called him last week "wanting to talk further about controversy that might be caused if certain grand marshals were honored," Witherington quoted Caruso as saying. While no specific grand marshal was named, speculation centered on Kate Raphael, an outspoken antiwar activist who has spent months aiding Palestinians in the Middle East.

Caruso, in an interview Monday night at the mayor's Pride reception following the raising of the rainbow flag at City Hall, adamantly denied the exchange took place.

"Teddy and I did not have that conversation. Teddy's doing a hell of a job and it's about money," Caruso said of the decision not to issue individual certificates because of the cost of framing them.

Monday night, Newsom presented Pride board President Joey Cain with a framed proclamation commemorating Pride Month, Stand Against Hate Day, and Out 4 Justice, this year's Pride theme. At the reception, Newsom said, "For efficiency and cost effectiveness, we've combined three proclamations."

Said Caruso later, "It's not about the issues. We could either have good champagne and strawberries and a nice frame [for the proclamation Newsom's presented], or everyone gets paper." He was referring to the grand marshals receiving unframed paper certificates. Caruso added that he had not received any feedback from anyone regarding Raphael or any other grand marshal.

"The only request I've received is to move people up in the parade line," Caruso said, adding he passed the message along to Pride organizers, who are responsible for the parade.

In previous years, former Mayor Willie Brown issued individual certificates to the grand marshals, said Cain.

"We've always gotten them before," he added.

As for the cost of that frame for the single proclamation, Matthew Goudeau with the mayor's protocol office told the *B.A.R.* that it cost "around \$65." ▼

Psychic channels pride in his profession

by Eric Ganther

Who: Leon LeGant
What: Psychic
Contact: leon@psychicschool.com; (415) 552-8554

Once thought the primary purpose of psychics was to separate fools from their money. Since becoming a San Franciscan, I've learned to separate myself from this totalitarian cynicism and to see life as vastly more complex (and interesting) than the Lutheran Church allows. To honor psychics – as misunderstood in the world of helping professionals as queers are in the world of sexual identity, and as likely to call San Francisco home – I interviewed Leon LeGant, gay man, clairvoyant, and psychic healer.

Tell me about being a psychic.

Psychic is a Greek word meaning soul essence. Everybody has a soul; therefore everyone is psychic. There are lots of signs advertising professional psychics all over San Francisco, but each one represents a wide variety of psychic ability and specialty – from tarot readers to palm readers to clairvoyants to channelers to healers. I'm a clairvoyant and a healer.

What do clairvoyants do for people?

As a clairvoyant, I look at and communicate directly with a person's spirit. Usually people come to a psychic with questions: what's my love life going to be? or their career, stuff like that. And I invite them to ask all the questions right at the beginning but as they're doing that I'm watching their spirit. Sometimes people have questions that they don't even know how to articulate but they know something is affecting them. As a spirit they're able to communicate what's affecting them through images or symbols.

How does healing work?

There are two types of energies that I work on as a healer. One I call a core picture – it forms in the brain when an individual undergoes a stressful or traumatic event. When I'm healing, I'm looking for those pictures and psychically erasing them. It just takes a few moments. They're highly charged with emotional energy. They're like keystones in an arch that hold pain all over the body. You pop the core picture out of the brain and the remaining pain starts to pour out of all the different places in the body too.

My second healing specialty is "spirit guide" removal. I use the term spirit guide loosely, to mean beings without bodies that may be beneficent but may also make people miserable. Everyone has spirit guides around them and those guides can have a strong influence on life. When I read as a healer, I tend to look for the negative guides and remove them, by psychically erasing their energy. When I do this, the person's higher-self has clear, unobstructed space, to heal and fulfill life goals. Your own spirit is a beautiful miracle and when you're free of pain



Leon LeGant

you can actually know yourself and know your beauty and know your future.

How did you get started doing this?

Coming out clairvoyantly was way harder than coming out as a gay man. In fact, coming out as a clairvoyant prepared me for coming out as gay. They parallel themselves in many ways. I was spiritually sensitive the whole time and didn't know it and

didn't know what it meant. And I knew things about people that I didn't know how I knew.

I was an average kid, who happened to have a genetic predisposition for clairvoyance that started awakening in me in adolescence. It started with seeing a ghost at a theater in Marin where I was working. People thought I was crazy, but I learned about it. It was a spirit. It was a control being. It was not a nice being. It created a lot of problems. In that case it was just controlling the environment. When you're dealing with something that's not human you often can't relate to why it does what it does.

How did you develop professionally?

I started my private practice about 10 years ago with one-on-one consultations. Over the years I noticed that most people look outside of themselves for their answers and personal power. That was not my experience, and I wanted to teach people how to find their own answers clairvoyantly – to literally roll their eyes inward and look at themselves and find the answers within.

Soon I had clients all over the country, so to teach them I founded and developed the Psychic School, the first long-distance clairvoyant training center. In 2000 we started teaching six-week clairvoyant classes by telephone as well as locally here in San Francisco. Since then we have shown hundreds of individuals across the U.S. and around the world how to handle, develop, and use their psychic energy.

How much do you charge to see people and/or to attend your school?

My consultations are \$125 per hour. Out calls for parties or haunted house clearings are \$150 an hour with a two-hour minimum. I teach through the Psychic

School, which offers [some] free classes and healing clinics. Our six-week clairvoyant classes are \$200 each and our advance one-year program is \$200 monthly.

Do you see patterns of issues in queer people?

Yes. Some gay and lesbian people's environment has taught them to hate or fear their own sexuality. Internal homophobia can cause them to take their emotions and sexuality – part of their natural beingness and splinter it off, shove it and the pain connected to it deep into their unconscious. But you can't really get rid of it that way. It will just manifest as self-hatred, self-sabotage, or it gets unconsciously projected in countless negative ways.

Do queers see things differently? Is there a link between spiritual leadership and queerness?

Most definitely. When I read a gay person, it's not like they're majorly different. I think everyone is unique and has reasons for creating the life they have. And I do feel on a spirit level that being gay involves a level of spiritual choice that is separate and different from a conscious choice. ▼

Eric Ganther is a career coach for queers in transition. E-mail him at eric@ericganther.com.

MARK SENICK

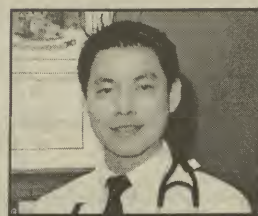
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A voice in the middle

Ronn Owens talks to the B.A.R.

by Ed Walsh

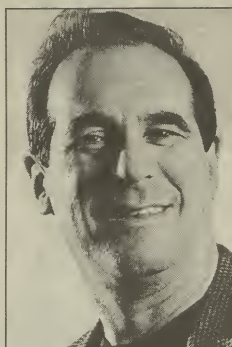
"I'm the stereotypical gay guy," KGO radio talk show host Ronn Owens told his listeners recently.

"Except for the sex part," he added.

"I think I'm kind of metrosexual," Owens explained to the *Bay Area Reporter* in a recent interview. "I have no problem getting facials, manicures. I'm neat, I'm clean, I take care of my appearance. All the stereotypes people have about gays—that's me. And I think it's important for a straight guy to say, so what, what's the big deal?"

Since joining KGO (810 AM) in 1975, Owens has been one of the most outspoken advocates for gay rights in Bay Area media. And when Owens talks, a lot of people listen. His 9 a.m.-noon radio show consistently tops the ratings, making his show the most listened to radio talk show in Northern California. The trade publication, *Talkers* magazine, named him on its list of the Top 25 Greatest Radio Talk Show Hosts of All Time. He is also the winner of the prestigious 2003 Marconi Award. Owens can now add the title of author to his credits. His recently released book, *Voice of Reason: Why the Left and Right are Wrong*, quickly made it to the Bay Area's best-seller list.

Like his show, the book doesn't shy away from gay issues.



Radio talk show host Ronn Owens

"Personally, I'm about as heterosexual as you can get," Owens wrote. "I can't imagine walking down a beach, past a row of beautiful women, and saying, 'Hey, check out the guy with the hairy legs and the buffed chest. What a hunk!'"

"That said, you'd be hard pressed to find anyone on the radio that's a bigger advocate of gay rights than me. I believe you're born gay, and that your rights are just as important as anyone else's and that any attempt to convince you otherwise is rude, absurd, uninformed, and just plain wrong."

Owens argues that the Republican stance against gay rights is inconsistent.

"I never understood how the

GOP could consistently oppose gay rights," he wrote. "This is the party that says they want the government to interfere as little as possible in our private affairs, yet they keep pushing for laws that would discriminate against people because of what they do in the bedroom."

Owens also is critical of the hypocrisy of some liberal Democrats who seem to care more about groups of people than individuals themselves. As a case in point, he cites openly gay Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank.

"He's a champion not only for gays, but also for the poor and disenfranchised," Owens wrote. "Yet when you try to talk to him on a personal level, when you sit and watch him get ready to be interviewed, he comes across as really arrogant. He's pompous, he screams at people, he's just unpleasant to be around."

When asked about his mention of Frank in his book, Owens told the *B.A.R.*: "He was one of the bigger disappointments. I always looked at the guy as being somewhat of a hero."

The *B.A.R.* contacted Frank for a response. Frank said he never heard of the book. After he was read the above passage, Frank responded, "Well, I guess I wouldn't expect him to invite me to tea anytime soon."

The theme of Owens's book is that he believes that the left has it right often on social and domestic

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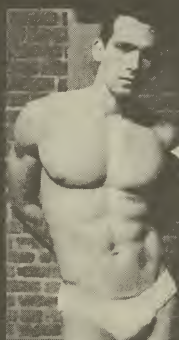


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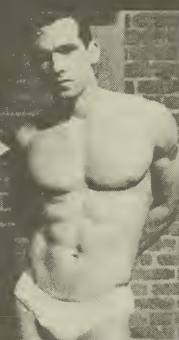
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Urban Forage

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the walls, mood lighting throughout, and one of the healthiest-looking team of servers and kitchen staff you've ever seen, of all genders and persuasions, and all clearly sharing in the Urban Forage spirit.

There's the new elixir bar, topped with a varnished, five-inch-thick piece of redwood. You can sit on a stool there and get your wheatgrass and rejuvelac chaser. "A number of dieticians are prescribing our foods," Supple said.

In order to do organics affordably, Supple said, you have to have high volume. By joining together, he and the other partners are able to create those higher volumes, so the prices stay within the ballpark people might pay for non-organics. And by having a more focused marketing strategy, he added, everybody understands when they come in to Urban Forage that all the fare is organic and vegan. That instantly attracts a large audience.

"Most restaurants take a couple of years to find their feet," said Supple, clearly delighted at the prompt success of Urban Forage. That Urban Forage is prospering "really speaks to the times," he added. "People are frustrated with our current economic and political environment, and they're wanting to take better care of themselves and nurture their spirit. That's our focus, spiritual evolution through connection with food and people. The community has really kind of rallied around us, because they can see that's what we're doing. We've had amazing support from the net-

work of faerie folks who have come in and offered their time and referred other customers.

"I'm part of the sober community in the city," added Supple, "so we don't serve alcohol, and we don't serve coffee, because we found the acidity of the coffee didn't work with the food, it's not balanced with the healing properties of what we do. We have maté, which has matine, which is very similar to caffeine, but that's really the only kind of stimulant."

As for the Castro location, said Supple, it will occupy the old Faerie Queen Chocolates space at 415 Castro Street, and "we think it will fit well with the demographic," appealing to diet-conscious gay people on-the-go. "It will be all about juices and smoothies, all of our raw foods, some of our rice bowls. That's part of the centralized kitchen model so that we can do a lot of prep and deliver to a small space." Supple says they hope to have the Castro Street Urban Forage open a couple of days before Pride.

Einhorn grew up being obsessed by food. She became vegetarian when she was 13, the only one in her family, so she started cooking for herself.

"I grew up reading cookbooks for fun instead of stories," said Einhorn. "I had a job back east as a line cook in a restaurant that really inspired me a lot. So I moved to California because that's where all the vegetarians are, or at least I thought so at the time. I ended up enrolling in the California Culinary Academy, and graduated from the CCA in 1999. It's a pretty traditional school. They pride themselves on global cuisine, but it's definitely got a French Continental foundation. My intention for going there was to learn tech-

nique, which can be applied to any type of food, and to have a piece of paper at the end that would give me credibility. They knew I was doing something different. I was vegan the entire time I was in school. I didn't taste anything that I made."

Much of Einhorn's inspiration to run a restaurant came from when she was in Hawaii, where she went after school, to an internship at a resort on the Big Island, on the Puna side. She quickly became executive chef there, and for two years was running her own show, managing 25 volunteers, with a menu that changed daily. She was inspired by the multicultural aspects of the environment and the diverse food that grows there. That's also where she learned management skills.

With the opening of Urban Forage on Valencia Street, Einhorn has "retreated" into her specialty, which is the management of food production. She manages the kitchen staff, the food inventory, and the flow of food. The restaurant receives produce daily, and other larger orders once a week. Einhorn does the ordering every day. The other partners hire and train for the front of the house, and for the other locations. Adri English, the owner of 333 Linden, is managing the build-out and construction of the Castro Street store. Supple has taken on other vendor duties.

"The boys take care of the coconuts," Einhorn said, "because that requires a vehicle and they handle everything that happens outside the door." She remains where she loves to be, tied to the line, flipping bean burgers.

"I would say we go through six to 10 cases of coconuts on a given day between the two stores," Ein-

horn said. The coconuts are imported from Thailand.

Are they fattening? "My personal opinion is no, they're not," replied Einhorn. "I think any whole raw fat doesn't make you fat; our bodies require fat to operate properly."

The volume of food they're producing is "intense," Einhorn noted. At Valencia Street they're serving, on a regular basis, between 200 and 250 people a day; at Fillmore Street it's between 100 and 150. Between the two stores, Einhorn figures, they go through 150 pounds of carrots a day, 40 pounds of onions a day, and almost a case of kale a day, a huge volume.

"Our body is the house of our spirit," Einhorn declared, explaining why she strives so hard. "By preparing our bodies to channel the energy we desire to channel, we're able to connect with spirit, with our own higher spirit, with whatever divine energy we believe in. Eating a particular way is what allows your physical container to do that." ▼

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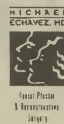
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Medical cannabis appeals rest on supremes' decision

by Liz Highleyman

Several medical cannabis patients and providers are pinning their hopes on a December 2003 court ruling that prohibits federal officials from interfering with state medical marijuana laws. Their fate rests on an upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decision about whether to hear an appeal from the Bush administration in the matter.

On June 16, a panel of the U.S. District Court for the Ninth Circuit heard oral arguments in the appeal of Bryan Epis, 37, the first Californian associated with a medical marijuana dispensary to receive a federal sentence for cannabis cultivation. The most

prominent similar conviction was that of Ed Rosenthal, who last June was found guilty of growing cannabis but sentenced to just one day in prison.

Epis was arrested in June 1997 after Butte County sheriff's officers discovered 458 cannabis plants and seedlings growing in the basement of his Chico home. Since his 2002 conviction, Epis has been serving a mandatory 10-year federal prison sentence.

During his initial trial, Epis was not permitted to offer evidence that he was growing cannabis for medical purposes. Epis claims he used most of the cannabis himself to relieve chronic pain resulting from an automobile accident. The remainder was given to four other patients with

whom Epis had formed a cooperative, or sold at cost to the non-profit Chico Medical Marijuana Caregivers.

Federal attorneys allege that Epis was a drug dealer running a commercial operation. Epis's attorney, Brenda Grantland, argued last Wednesday that in order to obtain a conspiracy conviction against Epis, prosecutors misrepresented data found on his computer to show that he planned to grow more than 1,000 cannabis plants and expected to take in millions of dollars.

Grantland also argued that the December 2003 verdict in the case

of *Raich v. Ashcroft* should apply to Epis as well. In that ruling, the Ninth Circuit said it is unconstitutional for the federal government to prosecute patients and caregivers who grow, possess, and distribute marijuana non-commercially within a state in compliance with state medical cannabis laws. In April, U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel ruled that the Raich verdict also applies to patient co-operatives such as the Santa Cruz-based Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana.

The Bush administration has asked the nation's highest court to overturn the Raich verdict, argu-

ing that cannabis has no recognized medical uses and that any distribution of marijuana falls under the federal Interstate Commerce Act. The Supreme Court is expected to announce by the end of the month whether it will hear the federal government's appeal.

In the meantime, the Ninth Circuit Court sent cases involving four Northern California medical cannabis dispensaries back to the district level last Friday, asking federal judges Fogel and Charles Breyer to reconsider their rulings in light of the Raich verdict, but to wait until after the Supreme Court issues its decision. ▼

National HIV testing day is Sunday

by Bob Roehr

The U.S. National HIV Testing Day falls on a Sunday this year, June 27, but the whole week is filled with media coverage and local events leading up to it. In some cities, such as San Francisco and New York, the day falls at the same time as LGBT Pride celebrations.

Estimates are that nearly a million Americans are infected with the virus but a quarter of them do not know it. Research shows that when people learn their HIV sta-

tus they are better able to take care of their own health issues and they are less likely to infect their sexual partners.

Rapid testing that uses either saliva or a drop of blood is now widely available and can identify antibodies to HIV in just a few minutes. Many AIDS services organizations will be out in force using rapid tests throughout the week.

OraSure, the company that makes the rapid tests, would like to be able to sell them directly to consumers, just like home pregnancy tests. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and many AIDS experts remain opposed to the idea, they say that testing should be accompanied by counseling.

About 48 percent of all Americans say they have been tested for HIV, according to a survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Some 20 percent have been tested within the last year: 43 percent in a private doctor's office; 20 percent at a general health clinic; and 32 percent somewhere else. About 1 percent reported using a home test kit.

The Federal Trade Commission clamped down on home test kits being sold over the Internet at Canadian Web sites aidshivestest.com and discreetestest.com. The

kits are not approved for sale in the U.S., but more importantly, they are extremely inaccurate.

Three minutes after performing the test according to the package instructions, 15.4 percent of the results were inaccurate; after eight minutes, 29.6 percent were inaccurate; and after 15 minutes, a whopping 59.3 percent were wrong, according to officials. The errors were in both directions — telling those who were negative that they were positive, and vice versa.

A federal court has issued an injunction requested by the FTC stopping sales of the tests in the U.S.

In Botswana, one of the African countries hardest hit by the epidemic, the government reversed its testing policy in January. It no longer simply offers HIV tests (not from Canada), it makes them a mandatory part of every hospital or clinic visit, unless the patient objects.

The change in policy parallels an increased availability of therapy within the country and an increased willingness to both get tested and go on therapy.

To find out more about National HIV Test Day, and to locate a test site near you, go to www.hivtest.org or call 1-888-344-KNOW. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Racist claims

◀ page 6

we're to believe that black men have just been putting up with this crap for YEARS and it's just now that we've had it up to here! I'm not buying it!" wrote Bass, who is black and has been a patron of the bar for years. "These attacks on Natali and SF-Badlands come across as a very thinly veiled attempt to negatively impact the transfer of the Pendulum's liquor license to Natali. Unfortunately, the people behind this has chosen some pretty hot-button issues in order to affect getting this done."

Natali has adamantly denied all the charges, calling them baseless. A number of his employees and patrons have voiced their support and also denounced the accusations as having no merit. Two African American employees, one a DJ at the Detour and a bartender at Badlands, have also come forward to refute statements made in the complaints that Natali does not employ blacks.

At the same time, several former employees and patrons at Badlands have now come forward to support the groups' claims that

Natali discriminates. Both of the city's LGBT Democratic clubs and a gay legal group have voiced their support for the investigations into Natali's alleged practices.

The San Francisco Police Department has also requested the ABC put a 20-day stay on the application as it investigates claims that Natali violated the city's police code when he asked patrons for two forms of IDs. The policy has been used in the past by bar owners to discriminate against minorities and was made illegal in the 1980s.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who is openly gay and represents the Castro District, sent a letter to ABC officials Tuesday, June 22 urging them to place a hold on Natali's pending application to purchase the Pendulum.

"Discrimination is not just wrong; it's illegal. Business owners who engage in such practices should not receive privileges from the state of California or the city and county of San Francisco such as alcohol and/or entertainment licenses," Dufty wrote in his letter.

Dufty announced his support for the investigations during a press conference at the LGBT Community Center Tuesday. Na-

tali's attorney, Paul Melbostad, who sat in the audience afterward, attacked Dufty for sending his letter to the ABC without first meeting with Natali.

"What I do find troubling is Bevan did not call Les and ask to meet with him. It seems to me Bevan should have asked to meet with him before passing judgment. It comes across as political pandering," said Melbostad, the former chair of the city's Ethics Commission and also legal counsel to the B.A.R.

He said that neither himself nor Natali have yet to receive copies of the complaints filed. Natali and his supporters have also suggested Dufty's actions are tied to his friendship with Greg Bronstein, another Castro bar and restaurant owner.

Bronstein and Natali fought a lengthy legal battle over ownership of the Detour, which ultimately resulted in Natali acquiring ownership of the bar. Bronstein owns the space next to Detour, which Dufty rented for his campaign headquarters when he ran for supervisor in 2002.

Bronstein had also bid on buying the Pendulum but lost out to Natali. Bronstein, who was read

Natali's letter on Tuesday, did not respond to requests for comment.

During the press conference Tuesday, Dufty said he decided to speak out on the issue because, since the story broke, "the floodgates have opened. Over the past week many people have come up to me to tell of conduct that would appall me and gives me pause. I have heard enough. I am ready to say a few things."

Dufty pledged his commitment to ensure the city takes every step to address the allegations, saying, "This is very important work that is just beginning."

Natali also attended the press conference, where he handed out copies of his letter he sent to the B.A.R. and sat in the front row. On Wednesday morning Natali reiterated his charges that the group IsBadlandsBad.com is part of a smear campaign.

"I listened to Romesburg's well-rehearsed harangue, and it was obvious to me that he is a well-paid professional hired to espouse a cause other than his own, and other than those he claims to represent. Their interest is not in discussing or correcting any problem they report, but rather they want to stop the sale of the Pendulum to me," said Natali in an e-mail.

He also said he tried to speak to the people behind the charges but was told "this was 'not the forum' for me." According to Natali's statement, he said he waited after the press conference to an-

swer people's questions, but was only approached by a B.A.R. reporter.

Romesburg refuted Natali's claim, saying he told him he could make a statement or ask a question at the end of the press conference. Romesburg said the group, which is all volunteer, has been meeting since last November and has only spent \$150 in expenses.

A Castro resident for 20 years, Natali has owned the Patio Cafe space for 10 years and bought Badlands five years ago. He has requested a meeting with HRC to discuss the charges against him. He has also agreed to talk to the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club next month when the membership meets to discuss lending its support to the investigations.

In his statement Wednesday, Natali said, "I love the Castro and the people in the Castro. I do not discriminate against anyone. When the truth comes out about these allegations, the people of the Castro will know that I do not discriminate against anyone." ▼

Full disclosure: Mr. Natali has been a client of Goldstein Gellman Melbostad Gibson and Harris for well over a decade. The firm's representation of Mr. Natali is unrelated to Mr. Melbostad being general counsel to the Bay Area Reporter.

Power of Pride!

◀ page 26

the pink triangle installation Saturday, June 26 at 10:30 a.m. on the top of Twin Peaks, said organizer Patrick Carney. For directions, visit www.thepinktriangle.com.

It takes hours for the entire parade to make its way up Market Street, and when it does, the marchers spill into the festival area at 8th Street.

In addition to a variety of stages and venues (detailed on page 32), the festival features a Pride main stage lineup on Sunday that is star-studded and energy-packed.

Headlining the main stage is Chaka Khan, known for hits such as "I Feel For You" and "I'm Every Woman"; she performs at 4:55 p.m. Also in the afternoon is comedian Norton.

"It's very exciting to have main stage performers of the caliber of Chaka Khan and Graham Norton," said Pride's Cain. "Chaka's phenomenal talent and award-winning career will contribute greatly to making this year's parade and celebration the world class event that it is."

Other must-sees include lesbian rapper JenRO at 12:25 p.m.; the 1950s-style big-band the Woodyz at 1 p.m.; heroes from the same-sex marriage movement at 1:40 p.m.; cast members from the musical *Hairspray* at 2:20 p.m.; the Men of Falcon Studios and

Chi Chi LaRue at 3:15 p.m.; the homo hip-hop group Deep Dickollective at 3:35 p.m.; and the winner of the "Pride Idol" contest at 5:55 p.m.

The official Pride dance party is Fresh at Ruby Skye; visit www.freshsf.com for more information.

Festival attractions

The Pride festival this year features some new additions, recent traditions, and old favorites. A voluntary \$3 gate donation is requested for entry into the big block party of stages, community spaces, and rows of merchandise, food, beverage, and information booths. Saturday's festival runs from noon until 6 p.m., and Sunday's is noon until 7 p.m.

A transgender space — whose focal point is the altar where Friday's Transgender March ends — will be hosted at the Civic Center through the weekend.

A Bear Garden will premiere at the Civic Center Plaza on Sunday and will provide a space to "snuggle up to your favorite furry bear, scratch, and enjoy the day," according to organizers. The garden will be recognizable by its bear flags and will also feature information about "Hairrison," the Bear street fair scheduled for August 15 in San Francisco.

The Outword Writers Village will feature Patrick Califia, Carol Queen, Michelle Tea, Larry-bob Roberts, the *Bay Area Reporter's* own Jim Provenzano, and others.

Leather Alley is a venue for leather, fetish, and BDSM minded folks.

In addition to the main stage, there is also the Fag Fridays dance stage, named after the popular nightclub party; the Latin stage; the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness stage; the SwingOut swing stage; the Tantra dance stage; the Nectar women's stage; the Soul of Pride African American stage; the Sundance country and western stage; the Shadow Play stage; and Faerie Freedom Village.

There will be a deaf and hard of hearing gathering space at the Pride celebration, on Sunday from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. near the main stage. Many of the stages with performances or speakers will be ASL interpreted, and the main stage also has designated areas for people with disabilities.

DanceSafe, a harm reduction organization, will host a booth to provide literature and information on drugs, safer sex, and hearing protection. DanceSafe volunteers will also provide free ecstasy adulterant screening, and water will be provided to the Pride dancing areas.

There are also free childcare facilities available, as well as bicycle parking.

A map of all the areas and stages is available online or at the Pride information booth in the Civic Center. For more information on all Pride events visit www.sfpride.org. ▼

Ronn Owens

◀ page 28

issues and the right is right more often on fiscal and international issues.

Although written before the debate over gay marriage sparked by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, Owens tackled the issue in his book, suggesting that the most pragmatic solution would be to allow gays all the rights of married couples, without using the term marriage.

"While I clearly support the idea of gay marriage," he wrote, "I can understand the resistance from the other side."

Owens told the B.A.R. that the best strategy for gay marriage advocates is to settle for "half a loaf" rather than insist on the whole

marriage loaf or nothing.

"I'm a half a loaf theorist," he told the B.A.R. "I say you take what you can get and once you get what you got, you go for the next part of it. But to turn around and say 'I want everything or nothing' is self-defeating. Get the foot in the door, then you got some leverage."

Owens is sharply critical of Bush's support of a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage. He told his listeners that was one of the pivotal reasons why he couldn't support President Bush's re-election.

"The idea that you got to push an amendment to discriminate against people is unconscionable," Owens said.

Despite his ratings success, Owens has no shortage of critics on the right and left. He noted that his support of the war in Iraq drew

the most vitriolic criticism he has had in his radio career, which began in 1968. Much of that criticism has come from the nighttime hosts at KGO: Gene Burns, Bernie Ward, and Ray Taliaferro, all of whom strongly opposed the U.S. involvement in Iraq.

Owens will keep his fans and detractors talking well into the next decade. On June 14, KGO announced that it signed Owens to an eight-and-a-half year contract, an unusually long-term deal in the broadcasting business that is often enslaved to the fickle audience tastes. ▼

Full disclosure: Ed Walsh works part-time for KGO-TV news, whose parent company, Disney/ABC owns KGO radio and TV.

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Striders

Frontrunners' historic path

by Jim Provenzano

Running is the purest sport. Seriously. There are no sticks, balls, or nets. Just legs chopping air and lungs heaving in and out in a race to the finish.

That form of racing goes back thousands of years, preceding even the first Greek Olympic Games. Across deserts and mountains, messengers bearing important documents were probably the first sponsored athletes.

Jump ahead to 1976 A.D. A gay running group is born, becoming the first organized GLBT sports group.

Bud Budlong, chairman of the marathon for the 1986 Gay Games in San Francisco, has a fascinating history of that group's origins (on its Web site www.sffrontrunners.org) and tells of a free community college in San Francisco called Lavender U., where it all began.

Jack Baker and Gardner Pond were set on teaching a furniture refinishing course at Lavender U. Each of them runners, at the last minute they changed it to a "learn to jog" class, which became the Lavender U. Joggers.

"For many, the Lavender U. Joggers was the first gay group they had joined," said Budlong, recalling a time when, he said, "there were no gay hiking, track, swimming, skiing, wrestling, bicycling, or tennis clubs, and no bands,

choruses or theater groups." The running group would inspire others to start their own sports groups.

Soon after the demise of Lavender U., the Joggers – with elected officers and growing weekly events – changed their name to FrontRunners, a variation on the title of Patricia Nell Warren's best-selling novel, *The Front Runner*. By 1980, they premiered the first "Gay Run" – 400 runners participated.

Warren said she's delighted to have so many FrontRunners clubs bearing her book's name. She's also happy "to see the growing international array of FrontRunner clubs for running and walking, and their contribution to the growth of GLBT sports."

Warren will be among the many participants at the next International FrontRunners Games, July 21-25 in Seattle.

The IFRG includes a track and field meet, a "Run With Pride" 5K road race, a 5K benefit walk, and social events and meetings for up to 25 of the nearly 100 FrontRunners clubs. From its early California roots, FrontRunners members range from novices getting in shape to distance runners going for the gold at Gay Games events and national competitions.

About a dozen San Francisco

FrontRunners will compete in the IFRG. This year, San Francisco's club celebrates its 25th annual Pride Run, and its 30th anniversary as a group. In 2003, its Pride Run raised \$8,700 for charity.

With about 300 club members, and about 100 "recurring guests," Garrett Hayashida, president of San Francisco FrontRunners, said being part of such a historic legacy is "kind of amazing."

Hayashida said more than 500 people attended last year's Pride Run. Regular Saturday runs have about 100-150 participants.

"In the pouring rain, though, it's only hardcore members," he added.

International FrontRunners President Alden Clark, of the Boston club, and a Gay Games competitor since the Vancouver's third Gay Games, said Boston FrontRunners was the third GLBT running group to form. Clark's been with them for 23 years.

Along with participation in the famous Boston Marathon, the club sponsors an annual Pride Run and the Yuletide Stride, a chilly race set in December, with proceeds supporting a holiday gift program.

Yet, of Boston's 110 members, Clark said only four runners are committed to attending the IFRG. "We're trying to get more people."



Participants in the annual Pride Run in Golden Gate Park.

He noted that three Canadian clubs will attend. He also mentioned a new club having formed in Mexico, but so far none have been able to attend U.S. events. Noted Clark, "It is more of an economic problem for some groups."

Despite the mostly U.S. attendance, the FrontRunners community has expanded to five continents. Patrick Lemaire of FrontRunners Marseille said he's unsure who among his fellow athletes may attend upcoming U.S. running events, like this summer's IFRG and Gay Games VII in 2006.

Even with many French residents opposing the U.S. occupation of Iraq, and concerns about international travel, Lemaire said that any doubts about visiting the U.S. may be more economic than political.

"A few of us went to Sydney," said Lemaire. "They enjoyed it, although some found the whole thing very expensive, and a money-oriented event."

Stefan Bellevue, a Berlin FrontRunner and the representative for Europe with FrontRunners International, said that European running groups are very often a part of a sporting club with many sections. "Many departments are under one roof," he said. "In the U.S., you often have running groups, clubs with their own by-laws. In Europe, the FrontRunner movement is not as big and organized as in the U.S.," says Bellevue. "It took a long time for the American movement to arrive."

This summer, German runners have their own anniversary – Berlin's 10th Europe Gay and Lesbian Run, which has expanded over the years to include track and field events with long distance races. This summer's EuroGames, held July 24-August 1 in Munich, will welcome over 5,000 participants, several hundred of them runners.

Locally, current SFFR activities include twice-weekly, noncompetitive runs, restaurant brunches after the Saturday runs, monthly bagel brunches in the park, and annual ski and camping trips. Each September, SFFR hosts LGBT Sports Day on Angel Island. Members participate in road races

locally, nationally and internationally.

Anne Ludwig's been a SFFR member for 12 years. The second year she was asked to become the group's secretary, and has also held other offices, and was also one of the originators of the Little Black Dress Run, a festive drag event now in its fifth year.

"Sydney did one of their own LBD, which became an opener for their Mardi Gras," said Ludwig. "They actually run, so they do wear running shoes. Following the run, we have an accessories contest."

You can meet and eat with FrontRunner members at their pasta party Friday, June 25, 6-10 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. Come dressed for the 1980s theme, the first year of the Pride Run. The \$10 cost for the dinner includes a full dinner and entertainment. There will be a raffle drawing for fabulous prizes. Space is limited.

This year's Pride Run takes place Saturday, June 26 starting at 9 a.m. at the Polo Fields in Golden Gate Park. This year's event beneficiaries include the LGBT Community Center and Larkin Street Youth Center. "Even at the Pride Run," Ludwig said, "a lot of people are very serious. It's a real mix. Some runners place in mainstream local events. But it's also festive." (Look for local politicians Mabel Teng and Bevan Dufty in matching Pride-appropriate hot pink outfits.)

From novices getting in shape to distance runners going for the gold, it's easy to find a pace that's right for anyone.

Here's to 30 laps, FrontRunners. May there be hundreds more. ▼

Celebrate more GLBT athletics at www.sportscomplex.org.

Online links

www.frontrunners.org
www.seattlefrontrunners.org
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Directions from I-280: Take I-380 to I-101, Highway 101 North. Stay on 101 North to South Airport Blvd. exit. After exiting, turn left at each of the first three traffic lights to PCA.

Upcoming events

Rugby

For men and women interested in learning the game of rugby or improving their existing skills the Out 4 Rugby clinic on Saturday, June 26 at Treasure Island will offer a day of sweaty scenic fun. March with the team on Sunday as well.

The registration deadline has passed, but you can cheer on the rookies and team members.

Pride Parade

Are you an athlete or sports organization wishing to march in the Pride Parade with Team San Francisco this Sunday? Lots of groups will be participating. Team San Francisco will be in position

177 (out of 203 contingents) in the Pride Parade. E-mail Team SF board member, Garland Murphy, at grmurphy@msn.com, or visit www.teamssf.org.

Twenty sports groups have joined in Team SF chair Ross Hayduk's terrific idea of getting 20 sports group booths in one block. Look for them at the northwest corner of Larkin and McAllister streets this weekend.

Also on Pride day, dozens of writers will be reading stuff, signing books, and hanging out at the comfy tree-shaded Out Word Writers Village, at the corner of Hyde and Fulton streets. I'll be reading at 4 p.m. For more info, visit www.sfpride.org. ▼

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

Solicitation No: 04-620-IFB-013

The San Francisco Housing Authority will receive sealed bids for Lead Based Paint Stabilization Project at Hunters Point East and West CAL 1-17A and Potrero Annex CAL 1-10, all located in San Francisco.

Responses are due 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, July 8, 2004. The IFB document is available at the Authority's office at 1815 Egbert Avenue, San Francisco on June 14th. A processing fee of \$50.00 (non-refundable) will be required for each set of documents. All payments must be in the form of Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Company Check payable to the San Francisco Housing Authority. Cash or personal checks are not acceptable. Contact Ms. Carolina Penate-Larrea, at (415) 715-3171, or e-mail penatec@sfa.org.

Solicitation No: 04-620-IFB-010

The San Francisco Housing Authority will receive sealed bids for Exterior Deck Repairs at Potrero Annex CAL 1-10 and Westbrook CAL 1-09.

Responses are due 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 6, 2004. The IFB document is available at the Authority's office at 1815 Egbert Avenue, San Francisco on June 14th. A processing fee of \$50.00 (non-refundable) will be required for each set of documents. All payments must be in the form of Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Company Check payable to the San Francisco Housing Authority. Cash or personal checks are not acceptable. Contact Ms. Brenda Moore, at (415) 715-3170, e-mail mooreb@sfa.org.

Solicitation No: 04-620-IFB-011

The San Francisco Housing Authority will receive sealed bids for Hunters View Sidewalk Restoration Project, CAL 1-18(3).

Responses are due 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, July 7, 2004. The IFB document is available at the Authority's office at 1815 Egbert Avenue, San Francisco and will be available for inspection or issuance on June 14th. A processing fee of \$50.00 (non-refundable) will be required for each set of documents. All payments must be in the form of Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Company Check payable to the San Francisco Housing Authority. Cash or personal checks are not acceptable. Contact Ms. Carolina Penate-Larrea, at (415) 715-3171, e-mail penatec@sfa.org.

2004 CURATOR AWARD RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

The San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery is pleased to announce the recipient of its first annual 2004 Curator Award: Todd Herman for his exhibition proposal entitled "In Passing". The Curator Award Exhibition will take place at the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, 401 Van Ness Avenue, in spring 2005.

The 2004 Curator Award was created by the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery in order to foster new curatorial concepts and support the further development of San Francisco's vibrant curatorial community. The award was open to all curators and curatorial partnerships residing in the nine Bay Area counties; artists in the proposed exhibitions could range from local to international.

Todd Herman was selected from a pool of three finalists, who were invited to present their proposals in-person at the Arts Commission offices. The two others chosen for the final round were the team of Patricia Maloney and Tiana McDowell for their proposal entitled "Go West, Young Man", and Kara Maria for her proposal entitled "Meatology". The panel would like to recognize these finalists for submitting compelling, professional presentations. Award panelists: Rupert Jenkins, Sharon Bliss, Lisa Cole, Catherine Lipsitz Daurer, Sean Fletcher, Cecilia Galiena, Erez Golan, Amanda Hughes, Charles Kremenak, Jennifer Lovorn, Rick Peterson, Michi Toki and Natasha Garcia-Lomas.

STATEMENT FILE A-0276469-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Gaucho Gypsy Jazz 133 Lily Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Dave Ricketts. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-03-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-03-04.

JUNE 10, 17, 24 JULY 1, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276186-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: InTense Studio 2543 14th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Cindi JoAlice Harrison. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 05-21-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05-21-04.

JUNE 10, 17, 24 JULY 1, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276149-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Suds Club 198 Gough St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed David Rummell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05-20-04.

JUNE 10, 17, 24 JULY 1, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276582-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Blend Salon 555 Sutter St., Ste. 301 San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Luong-Ha, Tuyet Tina. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-08-04.

JUNE 17, 24 JULY 1, 8 2004



STATEMENT FILE A-0276608-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Millennium Painting 858 Filbert #1 San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Greg C. Dewsnup. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-08-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-08-04.

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STATEMENT FILE A-0276600-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Posh Bagel 495 Castro St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Rieky H. Ngo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-08-04.

JUNE 17, 24 JULY 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276188-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: RAH Designs 3828 17th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Robert A. Hendricks. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 05-21-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05-21-04.

JUNE 17, 24 JULY 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276741-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ply 27 Mirabel Ave. St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Josh Crandall. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-14-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-15-04.

JUNE 24 JULY 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276928-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Full Circle Productions 1725 Clay St. #100 St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John H. Swain. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-21-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-18-04.

JUNE 24 JULY 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276879-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: City Cremation 3101 17th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Mary Ann Robertson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-18-04.

JUNE 24 JULY 1, 8, 15 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are Fuscotti LLC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 1548 Stockton St. San Francisco, Ca. 94133. Type of License applied for: 47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE

JUNE 24, 2004



STATEMENT FILE A-0276581-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Suzumex Luggage Transport Service 93 Leland Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Midori Yamamoto. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-07-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-07-04.

JUNE 10, 17, 24 JULY 1, 2004

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME, FILE NO: A-0276234-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Yama Luggage Transport Service. Located at: 93 Leland Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business was conducted by an individual signed Midori Yamamoto. The fictitious name referred to above was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on: 06-07-04.

JUNE 10, 17, 24 JULY 1, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276461-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: ONO Memories 656 - 7th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94118-3807. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed Joyce K. Wong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-03-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-03-04.

JUNE 10, 17, 24 JULY 1, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0276408-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Resonant Music and Sound Design 615 Battery St., Ste. 500 San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Laurence J. Hyman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 06-01-04.

JUNE 10, 17, 24 JULY 1, 2004

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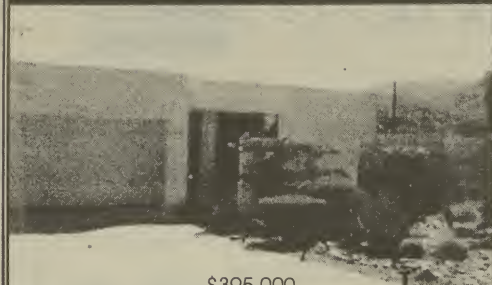


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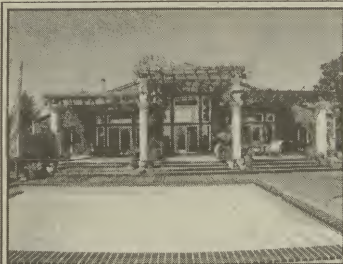
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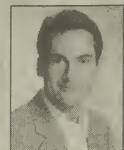


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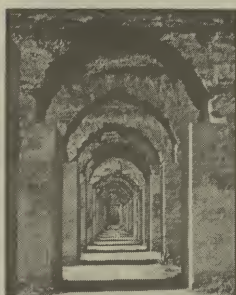


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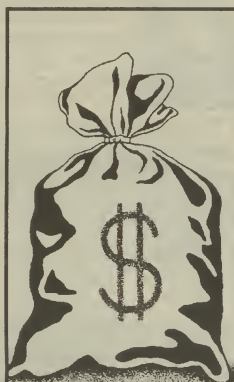
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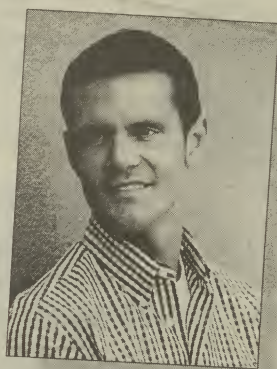
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in 1995, when Coors became the first major brewery in America to offer same-sex partner health benefits.

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But regardless of how many minds we change about Coors, we're going to continue the GLBT-friendly policies and programs we have in place, and look for new ways to ensure an inclusive, comfortable workplace for all of our employees. Just because it's the right thing to do. **Thanks for listening.**

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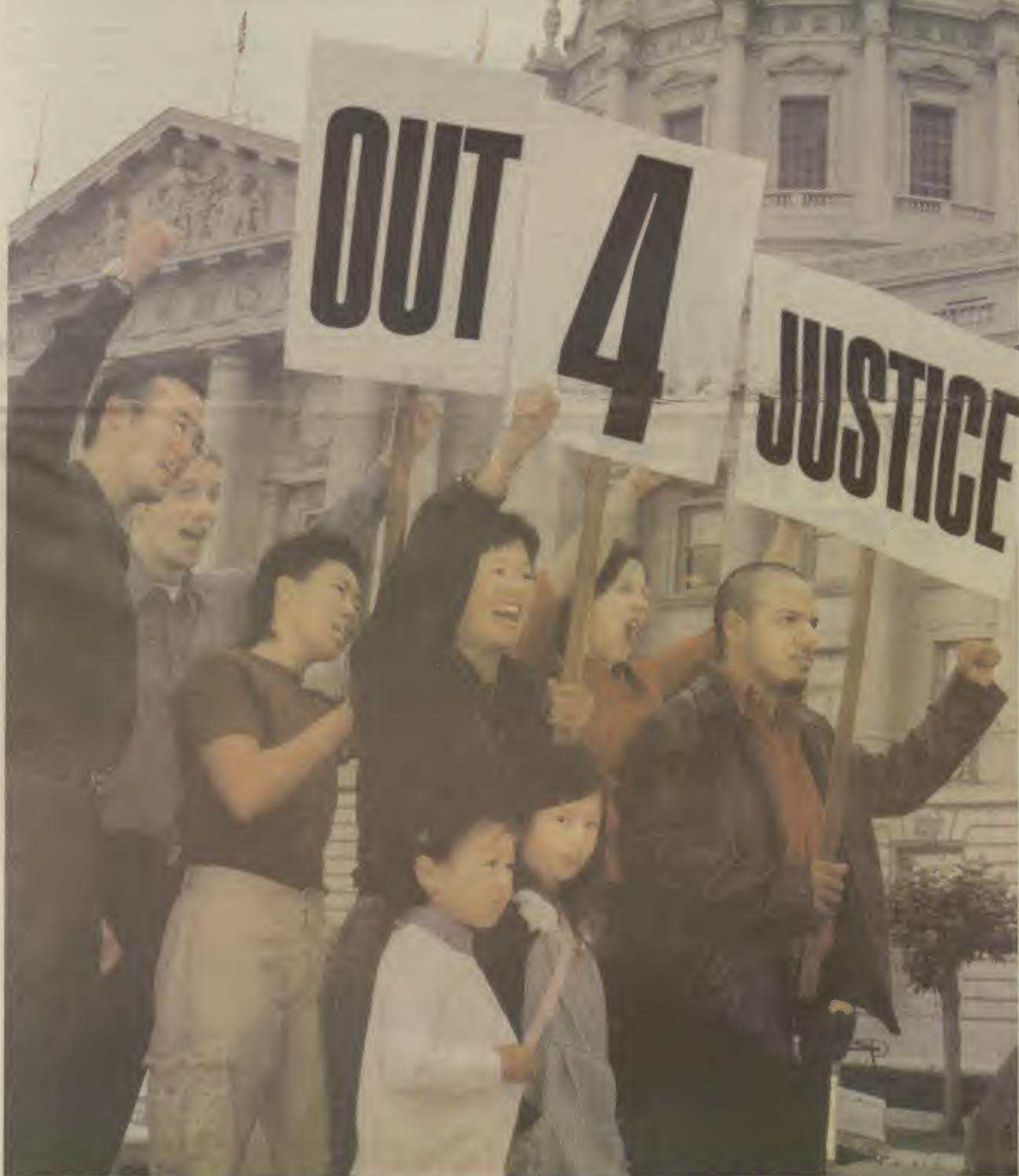
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The LGBT community came "Out 4 Justice" in many ways this year. Thousands of couples married in City Hall, while some of those denied ceremonies filed suit against the state. The survivors of a vicious hate crime and the family of transgender murder victim Gwen Araujo sought justice through the legal system. And the community grand marshals in Sunday's LGBT Pride Parade each day fight for justice in their own way.

On our cover, from left, John Wang and Robert Zivnaska, who got married in City Hall; Lancy Woo and Cristy Chung, lead plaintiffs in one of the lawsuits seeking marriage rights; and hate crime survivor Mariah Sparks with her partner, Prado Gomez. Below in front, Olivia Chung-Woo, daughter of Lancy and Cristy, and family friend Nadia Pinkham.



Photography by Rick Gerhart, art direction and digital manipulation by Adrian Roberts

Taking the stand against hate

by Zak Szymanski

For survivors of violent crime, the mental, physical, and emotional aftermath is sometimes described as a loss of innocence that reframes one's existence in the world. But for many people, such a loss can be transformed into strength and a commitment to make things better for themselves and others.

For the several people involved in what has come to be known as the "Drag King contest assault case," such a transformation has involved missing work for court hearings, attending expensive rehabilitative therapy, confronting and reliving their worst nightmares and fears, and refusing to remain silent when facing a perpetrator who in August 2002 brutally beat two women at a queer event while hurling racial and homophobic epithets.

In February 2004, just as a jury had been selected for his case, perpetrator Jack Broughton, of Walnut Creek, pleaded guilty to a felony hate crime assault in San Francisco Superior Court, but not without maintaining his innocence for a year and a half and prolonging the experience for his victims.

"The court system can be a re-victimizing experience," said Yvette Balderas, the primary injured party in the case.

"As a victim you have to worry about your demeanor and what feelings you are allowed to show. You're walking on emotional eggshells," she said, adding that since her injuries included several

blows to the head, she didn't always remember exactly what happened, which opened up challenges to her credibility when she was on the stand.

Witnesses have re-told the events from two summers ago as follows: a tall, built white man later identified as Broughton was evicted from the San Francisco Drag King contest at Studio Z in the South of Market District for obnoxious behavior, including racist and homophobic statements.

Balderas and her good friend Mariah Sparks were watching a spoken word performance by "Other Brothers," a group of transgender and butch people of color that included Sparks' life partner, Prado Gomez. The women soon noticed an altercation between Broughton and the bouncer. As Broughton was escorted to the door, his female companion—later identified as his girlfriend Jean Earl—jumped toward Balderas and hit her with a closed fist in the mouth. Stunned, Balderas followed the woman outside to ask her "who she was, and why she did that," she said. Once outside, Earl allegedly took another swing at Balderas, and Balderas swung back, knocking Earl to the ground.

Witnesses said at that time, Broughton punched Balderas several times in the back of the head, and she flew into a parked car and landed on the ground. While Balderas was on the ground, Broughton kicked her several times until she lost consciousness.

As she stayed on her knees and hands in the fetal position, Balderas said, she continued to feel the blows as they came: to her



Mariah Sparks, one of the victims in an antigay attack nearly two years ago, and her partner, Prado Gomez.

ear and jaw, to her torso, and to her wrist, which she had moved to protect her head. She heard the words "dyke" and "cunt" during the attack, but with each blow she began to fade. Balderas testified that in those moments she prepared herself to die.

Sparks exited the club to find "blood everywhere," according to her testimony, and she used all her strength to pull Broughton off Balderas, at which point Broughton punched her in the face. Gomez was soon called from the stage, and he exited the club to find his partner and longtime friend bleeding on the street.

Broughton and Earl then left for the Eagle. Police officers found them in the gay leather bar, covered in blood, insulting the patrons.

Along with all the trauma of the actual assault, said Balderas and Sparks, several factors influenced

their commitment to pursue the criminal case against their attacker.

For starters, both women were stunned that within a crowd of dozens, not one person stepped forward to stop the assault. Whether out of fear or ignorance, the attack occurred openly in an LGBT space without interruption. This, said Sparks, helped to motivate her to take a stand, particularly as a San Francisco native and queer daughter of two gay fathers.

"The times I expected this to happen were when my partner and I lived as lesbian couple," said Sparks. "It's ironic now that my partner is male, that I'm a target for homophobic violence."

In court, Sparks read a victim impact statement that summarized her fears.

"On August 22, 2002, I learned my community could not protect me from homophobic violence,"

she said. "If I can't be safe in San Francisco as a queer person I'm not sure I can be safe anywhere."

For the 18 months that Broughton faced charges, the victims and their families had to attend numerous hearings just to defend the validity of the case, despite victim and witness testimony and collected evidence.

Yet every potential obstacle, said Balderas, strengthened her resolve, from the original defense attorney trying to paint the scene of the crime as "hostile to straight people," to the revelation that Broughton had allegedly been violent toward Earl, despite his assertion that punching Balderas was to protect Earl's safety.

Meanwhile, across the bay, transgender teenager Gwen Araujo was murdered, less than two months after the San Francisco Drag King contest incident.

"I felt like I could have died that night, and I thought about all the people who die alone, and I had to see it through," said Balderas. "And then Gwen Araujo's death really saddened me and I thought how easily that could have been me, and I thought, 'Fuck it. I'm taking you down, asshole, no questions. It's on.'"

Still, while Balderas and Sparks believed they were standing up on behalf of their people, not every LGBT person agreed. The lack of intervention during the attack as well as the subsequent representation of Broughton by a lesbian attorney and a light sentence handed down by a lesbian judge made them "rethink our definition of community," they said.

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PRIDE 2004

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Labor of love: Local activist looks for common ground

by Zak Szymanski

Gay people hold down jobs and spend money just like anyone else.

It's an obvious fact, but one that can be overlooked when the community talks about civil rights. And it's critical to one of the most influential places that the queer rights struggle has thrived: in the labor movement.

It is labor activists who have set the tone for working conditions and have organized boycotts around a central premise: workers deserve a healthy job environment and should be promoted and fired only in relation to their performance and abilities.

It is no coincidence, then, that some of the best coalitions have been built between labor and gay activists in ways that benefited both populations.

"The long-standing tradition of unions was to defend any worker that lost his or her job on the basis of anything not relating to work, and even though some unions had homophobia in them, most of them realized the importance of honoring their principles," said Howard Wallace, a longtime queer labor activist in San Francisco. Likewise, when unions were trying to combat unfair practices, they saw the ability of the gay community to organize, and "recognized the potential for an ally," said Wallace.

Wallace, 67, is a recent retiree of Service Employees International Union Local 250 — where he spent 14 years helping to represent over 90,000 in Northern California — and founder of Pride at Work, a lefty LGBT labor organization with national influence.

Just last month, Wallace was elected as a vice president of the San Francisco Labor Council, making him one of the highest-ranking LGBT labor officers in the country.

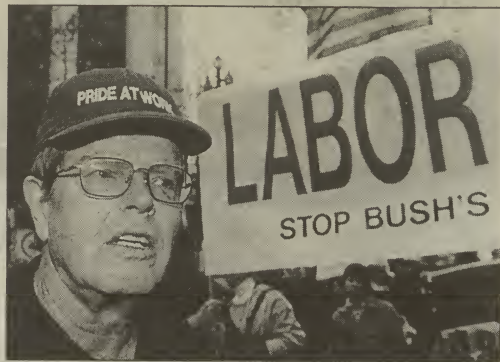
"It's influential to be an officer," said Wallace, noting that vice presidents have a vote on all standing committees, including the law and legislation committee that recommends positions on ballot measures. "I'm someone who is probably a little to the left of some of the leadership, and the fact that I'm gay is a first in a lot of ways. I'm also someone who speaks to the mainstream comfortably, and I'm very interested in building coalitions."

Wallace's official title is vice president for community activities, and his duties will include building coalitions among a variety of groups, which is a necessity, he said, that the left wing tends to ignore.

"The right wing is always building coalitions, which is one way they gain. The left needs to reach out to the mainstream and not just keep talking to themselves," said Wallace, whose strategy is simply to unite groups to work together on issues on which they agree, regardless of their differences on other issues.

One of the best known examples of a successful gay and labor coalition is the Coors boycott of the 1970s, which continues to be observed by many people today.

"The Coors boycott started



Longtime labor activist Howard Wallace at a rally in January.

here locally when the Teamsters opposed going through the company's mandatory lie detector test, because it was a gross invasion of privacy," recalled Wallace, who as a Denver native knew all too well the right-wing history of Coors.

One of the questions asked during the lie detector test by Coors was whether employees were homosexual.

As the founder of Bay Area Gay Liberation, Wallace got his organization to endorse the Coors boycott. And with strong politics like Harvey Milk behind the effort, the LGBT community was able to "get the beer out of gay bars, which was really impressive," said Wallace. "Labor respected a force that could come to their aid and show some muscle."

Coors went from having 43 percent of the California market to 14 percent as a result of the boycott.

It wasn't long before the gay favors were returned, with the leaders of the Coors boycott publicly praising the gay community for its efforts at a time when being associated with sexual minorities was not popular.

Coors itself changed as a result of the boycott, with the company adopting an inclusive nondiscrimination policy in 1978 that recognized the rights of LGBT applicants and employees. In 1995, the company began offering same-sex domestic partner benefits.

Through the years, as labor support for the gay community grew, so too did the push for workplace protections for gay people, from nondiscrimination ordinances to domestic partnership benefits. Where states lacked LGBT workplace rights, labor filled the gaps, and did so in some of the country's largest industries.

"One thing affected another, and affected another, and we got a reputation for being a community that was able to move people and turn people out on the streets," said Wallace, whose earliest activism was labor related, when he helped to secure the broadcasting union's opposition to homophobic television programming in the 1970s.

Today, the Pride Parade regularly features labor groups, and LGBT groups regularly get behind labor issues. While politicians debate regional and national amendments and laws, gays are making gains where it sometimes

matters the most: their places of employment.

The joint efforts come naturally to Wallace.

"The freedom fighters, Martin Luther King, and all the civil rights activists had a radicalizing effect on me as a young person," said Wallace. "I gravitated toward them. At the time I didn't want to admit that my gayness was playing a role, but the fact is, from high school on, I felt a deep, deep empathy with the underdog in society." ▼

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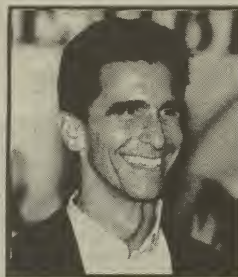
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Gay and lesbian couples fight for marriage rights

Less than 24 hours after the California Supreme Court issued an order on March 11 directing San Francisco to stop issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, Lancy Woo and Cristy Chung, a lesbian couple who have been together for 16 years and have a 6-year-old daughter, filed a lawsuit seeking the right to marry. The lawsuit asserts that excluding lesbian and gay people from marriage violates the California Constitution.

Representing Woo and Chung, along with 10 other couples who wish to marry, are the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. The case has been coordinated with five other cases filed either by gay couples or antigay groups fighting to keep marriage solely a union between a man and a woman. San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard A. Kramer will hear oral arguments in the cases in July; a trial date has yet to be set.

The *Bay Area Reporter* spoke with seven of the same-sex couples involved in the lawsuit. Their reasons for becoming plaintiffs are as varied as their life stories. But all are united by the common belief that they must come out for justice and fight for the right to say, "I do." ▼



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Lancy Woo and Cristy Chung with their daughter, Olivia Chung-Woo, front right, and family friend Nadia Pinkham in front of artist Phil Frank's heart artwork depicting San Francisco's same-sex marriages.

Plucked from obscurity

Case shines spotlight on family

by Matthew S. Bajko

Lancy Woo normally shies away from public attention. In deference to her Chinese parents, she keeps the fact that she is a lesbian — living with the woman she loves, raising a child together in their Sunset home — relatively quiet. Owner of VIP Grooming on

24th Street in Noe Valley, the 37-year-old Woo is not the public speaking type. That role is taken up by her partner, Cristy Chung, 40, a stay-at-home mom who used to work at an Asian woman's shelter where she learned to become comfortable with public speaking.

As for Woo, she says of herself, "I am just a dog groomer. It is all I have ever done."

Yet Woo now finds herself catapulted onto the national stage, standing before the glare of the media spotlight defending the gay community's fight for equal marriage rights. For it is her name that has been attached to a historic lawsuit filed against the state on behalf of gay and lesbian couples denied the right to marry.

The case is known as *Woo v. State of California*.

"We had a cow. I kept saying 'Why me?' I was shocked," Woo said when she learned her name had been picked out of a group of 14 plaintiffs for the case's title. "I thought I would just be one of the plaintiffs."

"We thought we would be further down the list. We had no idea how big it was going to be at the time," added Chung. "I am usually the public speaker in our family. Lancy being the lead person is just so ironic. We are so low key, too."

The couple found themselves caught off guard before, when they agreed to be interviewed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* for a story about domestic partnerships. Thinking it would be buried inside the paper, the women picked up the Sunday edition to find a picture of themselves on the front cover.

"I thought, 'Well, if my family didn't know, now they do,'" joked Woo.

With her mom fearful her daughter would end up in the Chinese-language papers, Woo said she warned her about the lawsuit.

"I had to call my mom. I told her, 'Just so you know, I am suing the state of California.' She was like, 'Oh my God,'" said Woo, laughing at the memory.

So far, the Asian press has ignored the story, the women said. But since joining the lawsuit, the family has been interviewed by the *San Jose Mercury News* and the local NBC affiliate. They also testified in support of Assemblyman Mark Leno's (D-San Francisco)

pro-gay marriage bill AB1967 before an Assembly committee in Sacramento.

How Woo's name got top honors appears to be one of those "it's a small world" tales. A friend of their daughter's preschool teacher, who handled the couple's second-parent adoption, called the women and twice left them messages. Her friends were looking for couples to become plaintiffs in a lawsuit and she had suggested Woo and Chung.

Unbeknownst to them at the time they signed on to the lawsuit, the couple's friend, Jenny Pizer, a senior staff attorney for Lambda Legal in Los Angeles, was working on the case. The couple said they believe that is how Woo was plucked from obscurity to become part of LGBT history. They suspect that being a gay Asian couple also played a part.

"There is a huge Asian queer community here that is not often seen," said Chung. "It's not just gay white men."

In a way, though, it is all Woo's fault. The night of March 11, the day the state Supreme Court shut down the marriages taking place in San Francisco, Chung was sick in bed. Woo ended up speaking to lawyers with the National Center for Lesbian Rights about joining the case. Chung remembers being too tired to really make a decision. Before going to bed she told Lancy, "Whatever you decide is fine."

Woo, without much thought for the impact it would bring to her life, said, "Yes. We'll do it."

Sitting on their living room couch recalling that night, Woo told Chung her decision was more based on fighting for her family.

"The first words out of the lawyer's mouth was, 'I am so sorry you couldn't get married.' When she first asked if I would be willing to be part of a lawsuit, I thought 'Yes, I would be willing to do it.' I didn't like watching you be so sad because we weren't married," said Woo. "It made me want to do it. The whole basis of why I said yes is I want to take care of my family."

A long wait

Together for 16 years, domestic partners for three, Woo and Chung had already had their own private commitment ceremony in

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CAROLE MIGDEN

FIGHT FOR MARRIAGE

Couple adds a black voice to marriage debate

by Matthew S. Bajko

To Corey Davis and Andre LeJeune it feels like they have been together "forever," they joke, despite what they term a "one-year hiatus" in their six-year courtship.

And on March 17 they planned to officially commit themselves to each other for life by marrying in San Francisco. The two men, both African American, share a home together in Los Angeles, though Davis, 35, lives in Oakland while he attends the Principal Leadership Institute program at the University of California at Berkeley. He is also the school partnership director for the San Francisco Unified School District.

LeJeune, 37, a pharmacist in Los Angeles, had planned to spend Valentine's Day with Davis in the Bay Area, so Davis decided to propose to his partner.

"I thought this is historic, so I left him a voice message, 'Boo Boo will you marry me? You better say yes!' He called me and said yes," recounted Davis.

The two were going to "elope" at City Hall but, with the rain, they decided to wait until after that first weekend of marriages in February. When they tried to make an appointment, the rest of the month was booked.

Looking at available dates in March, an appointment was open

on Wednesday, March 10, the day before the state Supreme Court would announce its ruling and put a halt to the gay nuptials. The men instead chose a date for the following week, because "I thought 'Oh, no, we will have more time,'" explained Davis, whose freshman year roommate at Stanford was Matthew Werdegarr, son of Supreme Court Associate Justice Kathryn M. Werdegarr. When the court announced its decision, he said, "I was surprised. I was crushed. I knew the ruling was coming but I thought it wasn't coming so soon."

"Corey couldn't get out of bed. He slept for two days," recalled LeJeune. "I kept calling him. He was depressed and mad as hell."

After reading in the *Bay Area Reporter* about the American Civil Liberties Union's lawsuit, Davis said he knew that he and LeJeune had to take part and called Tamara Lange, a lawyer for the group.

"Lange called me the next day. I told her we were two African American men and that it was important for us to be a part of it," said Davis. "It is not often you see two grown, masculine black men together."

Until being interviewed by the *B.A.R.*, the men had yet to talk to anyone from the media about their joining the lawsuit. As gay marriage dominated the nightly news and front pages of newspapers across the country this

spring, LeJeune said, "We haven't done any stories with the black press."

"I don't think they want to touch it," added Davis.

African American split

The fight over gay marriage has torn open a split within the country's African American community, with leaders of the civil rights movement voicing support and conservative black ministers crying out in opposition. Other blacks object to same-sex marriage being equated with the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

"Our community is really homophobic. In Los Angeles and Louisiana, where I grew up, black people always talk about homosexuality and how gays are going to hell," said LeJeune.

To realize such talk is hypocritical, he said, "you need look no further than the pulpit."

"Or the choir," added Davis.

The two men's families fall on either extreme of the argument. Davis, who grew up in Akron, Ohio, said his family is very supportive of him and his relationship with LeJeune.

"When I told my family about the lawsuit they were excited. I think in a lot of ways my parents live vicariously through me," said Davis. "They have very progressive politics. They think I am fighting for a meaningful cause."

LeJeune said his family's



ALCU plaintiffs Corey Davis and Andre LeJeune relax at home.

nonacceptance of his being gay gave him pause in joining the lawsuit. "I had some reservations at first. I thought 'What will my family think?' But I got over that," he said. "Being from the South, the Bible Belt, they haven't accepted my being gay, let alone getting married. I am their son but the gay part of me they don't acknowledge in Louisiana."

No matter what strains the lawsuit may cause with their families, the men said the struggle for marriage equality is a fight they must join.

"I feel like any right that is extended, like the option of getting married, should be extended to us. It is a fundamental right we should have," said LeJeune. "We are still second-class citizens in many ways."

Being able to marry is important, said the couple, since they do not want to register as domestic partners.

"I don't like the term domestic partner. If we are going to be together he should be my spouse. Why can't he be my spouse?" asked Davis.

Met at the gym

The couple almost never came to be in the first place. Members at the same Los Angeles gym, they first saw each other as they were working out. One day, Davis just walked up to LeJeune and said, "You are beautiful."

"I didn't know if he was gay or straight," said Davis. "He turned beet red and wouldn't come near me for six months."

"He was with another man," said LeJeune. "I avoided him like the plague until he finally told me it was his training partner. He took me out and we've been together ever since."

For Davis, LeJeune is his perfect match and ideal mate.

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1985

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- Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader of the Soviet Union
- "Careless Whisper," by WHAM! debuts at #1
- Fingerless gloves, leggings, teased hair, & jean jackets are fashion necessities
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Hesitant to marry, but couple joins fight

by Matthew S. Bajko

Even if the California Supreme Court had not stopped city officials in March from marrying gay couples, Jewelle Gomez can't be certain she would wed her partner, Diane Sabin.

After the gay nuptials started, Gomez and Sabin picked up the paperwork but never actually made an appointment to be married.

Sabin, 51, a chiropractor, and Gomez, her partner of 11 and half years, were still debating whether they should take the marriage plunge when the court's ruling came down on March 11.

"We were still discussing the pros and cons," explained Gomez, 55, an author and the director of grants with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Lesbian feminist activists for 30 years, the women are still torn to this day on if marriage is right for them. They are domestic partners, having registered with the city three years ago and with the state last year after the Board of Equalization changed its tax rules for property jointly owned by such couples. They own a home on the edge of Noe Valley.

They've even exchanged rings, which they wear on different fingers. To friends and relatives who asked if they would get married, the women replied they were "engaged."

"Not as a step to marriage but as in the true definition of the

word. We are engaged with each other," explained Sabin.

They support those couples who did opt to marry during the "Winter of Love," but for them personally, Sabin said, "It shouldn't be if you squeeze it in in this short amount of time you can do it."

What they do agree on is judges should not have the power to decide the question for them.

"Our feeling is we should be able to get to make those decisions," said Gomez.

So without much debate, the two joined the ACLU lawsuit to ensure they get to choose when, and if, they will marry. In fact, they were one of the first couples to sign on to the suit.

"By 7 p.m. that day we were part of the lawsuit," said Sabin.

Friends with NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendell, the women did not need much debate before agreeing to lend their family's story and struggle to the court case. Unlike the other couples involved with the suit, who all had made appointments to be wed and are clamoring to say "I do," Sabin and Gomez are fighting for their right to "get" married, not "be" married.

"Whether we get married the day the ruling comes out is really a private matter," said Gomez. "Of course the legal ramifications of this struggle are paramount. It is no small thing."

Known for their years of political activism and unwillingness to settle for second best, Sabin said the marriage debate has made her look at herself in a new light.



Diane Sabin and Jewelle Gomez joined the ACLU lawsuit.

"I have been very surprised to realize how much I have accepted being marginalized. I am appreciative of domestic partnerships, that it even exists is amazing," she said. "But I didn't know a domestic partnership was not recognized outside of the state. I didn't realize how limited the rights we have won still are."

As a feminist Sabin had always viewed marriage in a critical light, calling it a patriarchal institution and a contract based not on love but on property. As the marriage debate heated up over the last

year, her view about matrimony evolved.

"Society expects me to take on full responsibilities as an adult in the culture. As an American I should have the rights that come with marriage whether I am ready to have them or not," she said.

Of the two, Gomez is the more resistant to the idea of being married. Before she ever accepts Sabin's hand, she said she needs to resolve her issues with taking on such a traditional role.

"I would be honored to be married to Diane, that would be a wonderful thing. I would like to have a party and get toasters," Gomez joked. "I think in part getting married is redefining the institution in some minds. If marriage does continue it needs to be changed and needs to be reformed so it is not about oppression."

In a way, Gomez said the gay couples' lawsuit "might be that work that changes marriage for everyone."

The assimilation aspects of gay couples joining in a heterosexual fashion is also troubling, she said.

"I think as a human rights activist I have never felt comfortable with stating we are just like you and that is why we should treat you well," said Gomez. "I prefer to think we aren't like the status quo. We do have differences that would require them to change. Of course I feel my participation in marriage changes it immediately. But how do I make that resonate in the rest of the world?"

Her reticence is not to say she

is not moved emotionally by seeing gay couples wed. Watching couples marry in San Francisco, Oregon, New York, and Massachusetts brings tears to her eyes.

"When I see the couples cry I think it is wonderful they can have that joy. I get that totally," she said. "I am sobbing when I am watching it on TV or am reading it in the newspaper."

But along with the happiness of the couples, Gomez also sees other messages she is not so supportive of, messages she finds detrimental.

"When I see people getting married I think about teenage girls who watch TV and see shows like *The Bachelor*. I feel like no, that is not what we need to be teaching girls any longer," she said.

However, they do concede the marriage debate has given a platform for lesbians to be seen and heard, not only within the gay community but the mainstream public as well.

"It is like someone putting a mirror on a blank wall. As lesbians one of our biggest issues is being invisible," said Gomez. "Lesbians always fall off the radar screen in politics or popular culture. Marriage has put a mirror up for us. We get to be seen in a way. That's not been true in the past."

In embracing marriage, Sabin said she is also mindful of the various approaches the queer community takes toward relationships. She said she does not want to see that eclipsed by the wedding euphoria.

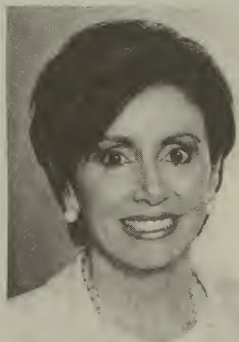
"The queer community has more fluidity about types of relationships. This puts everything back into the Noah's Ark model. I don't think every relationship should be that way," she said. "I am outside of the mainstream. I am not viewing marriage as a way to become part of the mainstream."

It is just part of the conversation the women have with each other when discussing whether to marry. While she is not hurt emotionally because Gomez has yet to say yes, Sabin said on a practical level at times she doesn't understand Gomez's indecision.

"I ask her why don't you want these benefits?" Sabin said.

She can envision herself getting married, said Gomez, though she doubts she would call it a "wedding."

"I do want to have a big ceremony and celebration. Having that opportunity is very exciting to me," she said. "Emotionally, perhaps I will be ready to do that by the time we can have it." ▼



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FIGHT FOR MARRIAGE

Waiting a lifetime to wed

by Matthew S. Bajko

It was meant to be the fulfillment of a lifelong wish. Ida Matson's dream is to marry her partner of 27 years, Myra Beals, before she dies.

At age 68, Matson knows her time is running out to make Beals, 62, her wife. The women have already spent more than a quarter of their lifetimes together and at noon on March 12 inside San Francisco City Hall the couple thought Matson's wish would be fulfilled.

Fate, however, would intercede. At 3 p.m. the day before Matson's longed-for wedding, the women received word the gay nuptials had come to an end.

"It took about 20 seconds to set in and I went ballistic. I kept on saying 'They won again. I am never going to have my rights! I am never going to be able to do this,'" said Matson.

"And I was pissed," added Beals. "We were packing and were all set to come down. We had booked a party at Absinthe for Friday night. We had been dithering all morning deciding what to wear."

Devastated to learn they had missed a chance to wed, they debated whether they should still make the trip south from their home in Northern California.

"I was a basket case for a couple of hours. We were calling family to try to figure out what to do," said Beals. "We already had our rings made and my 92-year-old mother was coming. Part of her family had already started sending us cards



Myra Beals and Ida Matson, plaintiffs in the ACLU lawsuit.

and our neighbors had been talking about throwing us a party."

The women decided nonetheless to make the drive down to San Francisco that Friday from their home in Mendocino, a town about three hours north of the city with a large women's community. The couple had retired to the area eight years ago and has a house with majestic views of the Pacific Ocean.

As they hit Marin, traffic was snarled and they sat idling on the highway. As the hour approached noon, and their rings with them in the car, the women decided to go ahead with their own wedding ceremony.

"In the film *Cold Mountain* the two stars get married by saying 'I will marry you' five times. That is basically what we did," said Matson. "And she promised to marry me within the year."

Since their commitment is not valid under the law, the women put their rings on each other's right hand. "If they take out the word marriage and have civil unions for everyone maybe we'll change hands," said Beals. "For now we are 'spices for life.' I still can't get the word spouse out of my mouth."

Though to both Beals and Matson, they are bound in matrimony.

"It is worthy of celebrating. It was a very personal commitment. It takes precedent over any legal ceremony we would have had," said Beals.

Initially, Beals resisted the idea of getting married. Having been married to a man already, she saw no need to rush back into an institution she considers too patriarchal anyway.

Even if marriage was already

legal for gay couples, Beals said, "I don't know if we would even have gotten married if we could have. No piece of paper is going to change the fact that we are as committed as you can get."

Matson, in fact, was the one to propose and nudge Beals into accepting her hand in marriage.

"I asked her 'Will you marry me?' and she said 'Why?' and blew me off," she said. "It took two weeks talking about it to make an appointment."

Her resistance to the notion didn't weaken until after another couple wed and she began to change her mind, said Beals.

"Our friends came down and got married. She said it really did make a difference," said Beals.

Raising hell

Both women had been in marriages that failed for various reasons. Beals had been married to a man for 13 and half years until she finally kicked him out of the house.

"For me, marriage isn't even in my head. I don't think I ever supported it," she said.

Matson had two marriages from her past. The first was a six-month stint with a boy in Idaho not long after she graduated high school. Raised Mormon, Matson said it was the thing to do. Fleeing the marriage, and her Mormon upbringing, she moved to Los Angeles.

"I grew up in a small town in Idaho. I didn't have a label like lesbian. I thought I was the only one in the world," she said.

In her new home she discovered the underground, and at the

time, illegal homosexual lifestyle. It was 1957, a time when vice cops routinely raided gay bars.

"I have always been a butch person but I had to dress as a woman and act like a woman as best I could. I had to wear heels and dresses to get jobs," said Matson. "What I have seen happen over my lifetime is it really, truly was illegal for you to be gay. You could not say homosexual. They could send you to jail. I lived it."

After a while, Matson said, "I got tired of not finding a woman. I met a really nice guy and we got married. It lasted a couple of years."

Eventually the two women landed jobs with the Santa Clara County Transportation Agency in San Jose. Beals worked in human resources and Matson was a road supervisor for buses.

Matson "came in to HR one day. She was raising hell so they called me," recalled Beals. "It was like clicking at first sight, I just knew. It was instant lust in fact. I went after her."

There were only two problems. Beals had yet to finalize her divorce and Matson was in a committed relationship with a woman.

"I never imagined I would be a home-wrecker," joked Beals.

"I was concerned about having a relationship with Myra. She was still married," said Matson. "I held off as long as I possibly could. It took a couple months."

Over time, the two built a life together. They became founding members of the Billy De Frank LGBT Community Center in San

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Breathe Easy



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Delay The longer you can put off reaching for that cigarette, the more smoke-free time you will have under your belt - and the easier it will be to continue on the path to improved health.

Deep Breathing Focus on your breathing. Circulate that oxygen and clear the lungs. After a while, the urge for a cigarette will lessen. Deep breathing exercises can help reduce stress.

Drink Plenty of Water Put something in your mouth that's good for you! Drink lots of water, preferably sipped through a short wide straw. Drinking lots of water acts as an appetite suppressant.

Do Something Get active! Be specific and focused. You may decide to choose a familiar activity that you never associated with smoking in the past. Or you may choose a new activity that you did not consider when you were a smoker. The main thing is to occupy yourself comfortably during those moments when you would be most likely to light up out of boredom.

Dialog With a Friend Who Quit Smoking

One of the most helpful techniques for remaining smoke-free is to seek out the support of others who have done so - including those who are at the same stage of quitting as you are. Learn from each other, encourage each other and share those moments when you want a cigarette more than anything. This will often help you get through the most trying times. Consider joining a support group for ex-smokers.



Brothers find themselves on opposite sides of the wedding aisle

by Matthew S. Bajko

Brothers Joshua Rymer and David Greenberg, both gay and San Francisco transplants from Massachusetts, are engaged in the political battle for marriage equality. But the siblings' involvement is from different vantage points.

As a newlywed, Greenberg, 52, a software engineer, joined in the fight when he said "I do" on March 8 and married his partner Bob Concannon, 48, a managing partner of an executive search firm.

"We saw what was going on at City Hall and wanted to be a part of it. We wanted to raise our voices in a political way," Greenberg said of the couple's decision to get married.

Rymer, 47, a senior vice president with Charles Schwab, expected to take the same step, having booked his marriage to his partner Tim Frazer, 42, the chief technology officer for a software technology company, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

But the state Supreme Court changed his plans when it ended the gay nuptials six days prior to Rymer and Frazer's wedding day. He now finds himself a plaintiff in the ACLU lawsuit against the state, suing California so he can become a married man like his brother.

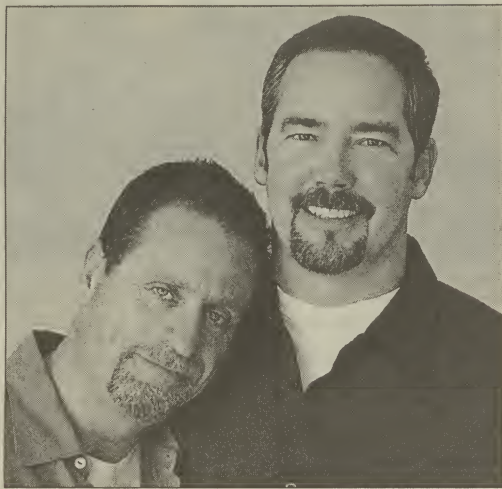
"I am really proud my brother and his partner were able to get married. I am thrilled for them. They have spent a long time together and are a very committed couple," said Rymer. "I love the fact they could do it. It made me even sadder that we couldn't do that. I looked at the photos of them at City Hall and could see how happy they were. It made me even sadder that we weren't allowed to take that same step and have that same recognition."

Greenberg and Concannon, who will celebrate their 20th anniversary in July, almost didn't get married themselves. They kept calling to make an appointment but could never get through to the clerk's office. On March 2, after he heard gay couples could use the Internet to schedule an appointment, Greenberg logged on and picked the first spot available.

"I figured we should do it as soon as possible," said Greenberg, who refers to the ceremony as his "shotgun wedding."

Seeing that city officials had asked the couples to only invite their witnesses to the ceremonies, Greenberg did not invite his brother. The couple invited a straight married couple they are close friends with who wanted their children, ages 10 and 12, to witness the historic event.

"They wanted the kids to share this experience with us," said Greenberg, though his husband's



Joshua Rymer and Tim Frazer look forward to the day they can get married.

sister surprised the men by flying in from Miami that day.

Briefly the two had discussed going to Massachusetts to marry, since Greenberg's parents still live in the Bay State. Then with San Francisco opening the door to gay marriage, they opted to wed here. Greenberg expected to see his brother do the same.

When that would not be the case, he said, "I felt angry and dis-

appointed." The court's decision did not surprise him, because, "I didn't have the illusion this was going to last. I knew it would be a struggle before it became a permanent reality for everyone."

More surprising at first was Rymer's joining the lawsuit. After thinking about his brother's decision though, Greenberg said it does fit his character.

"He is an outrageous, courageous person. He is fearless," said Greenberg. "I guess to me the act of the lawsuit, since I see it in a political context, I think it is very important. What Bob and I did by going to City Hall is the opening salvo" in the marriage equality fight.

They are also following in the footsteps of their father, Mel Greenberg, who at the age of 14 joined the civil rights struggles of the South in the 1960s.

"I have been one of those trou-

blemakers," said Mel Greenberg. "I've known my son for a lot of years. If there is anybody who would be tempted to do something like that it is Josh."

He said he doesn't see his sons as the one who married and the one who couldn't. Besides, one day soon, both his sons will be married men, he said.

"I celebrate tremendously with David and Bob having the opportunity to get married," said Mel Greenberg, who is confident his other son will prevail with his lawsuit. "It is just a matter of time before gay marriage is going to be recognized across the United States. It makes no sense any other way despite the vigor of the religious right."

His sons continue the fight for civil rights that he first took part in 40 years ago. Each brother's action is part of the continuum in that struggle, said David Greenberg, who believes his younger brother is playing a bigger role.

"I am very proud of him. It is a much bigger commitment than one trip down to City Hall," he said. "In a lot of ways it is a much more public commitment."

Classic proposal

Eighteen months ago Rymer and Frazer, who have homes in the city and Sonoma, where Frazer works and lives full-time, registered as domestic partners.

"We had a private exchange of rings and a commitment we made to each other in San Francisco at dinner," said Rymer. "Over the course of 10 years we did not discuss having a wedding. For all intents and purposes we are married, we have been married, and intend to be married. But we did not have a ceremony or public announcement of that."

"I don't think either one of us was concerned about the fact we couldn't be married then. In our

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The Vatican calls this violence. Dignity calls it love.



Clockwise from left: Patty Dolan, Kerry Dolan, Paula Hills, Keegan Dolan. Members, Dignity/USA

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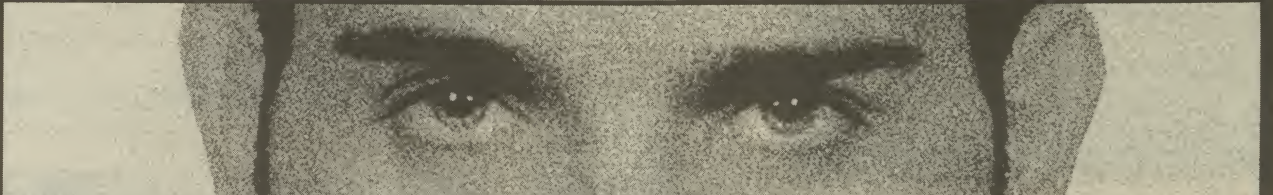
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Media captures couples' disappointment

by Matthew S. Bajko

They walked into City Hall on March 11 expecting to come out as "spouses for life." Instead, they were denied the right to marry by the state Supreme Court only minutes before their planned ceremonies.

Caught in the glare of the media, television cameras and newspaper photographers captured the couples' hurt expressions, and the images landed in news outlets around the world.

"It was a pretty emotional moment for both of us. The clerk came out and told us the news. The media was there right away," said Arthur Frederick Adams, 39, a cinematographer who had planned to marry his partner, Devin Wayne Baker, 39, a banker. "I right away gave interviews. It was important for people to hear our story and see who we are."

The Mountain View couple had arrived at 2:20 p.m. that afternoon and had already begun filling out paperwork in time for their 3 p.m. appointment. Standing next to them was a bride and groom waiting their turn to be married.

It was unclear if all marriages had been called off or only those of the gay couples, said Baker.

"The bride had a very sad look on her face. She was very confused," remembered Baker.

After talking to reporters, the couple found a quiet corner in City Hall to exchange vows and rings.

"After having our experience on the second floor, we went downstairs. We saw the straight couple was getting married, yet we were walking out an unmarried couple," said Baker.

CNN asked them to appear on TV live that Friday, though they declined. KGO, NPR, and KRON had all interviewed the couple while they were at City Hall. The attention was all a bit overwhelming, the men said.

"You need to remember that was my wedding day. I was realizing a dream and it turned into this media event. I couldn't even think straight," said Baker. "It just became surreal. It was heartbreaking that we got that close. It was crushing to go through that and to have our marriage application literally taken from our hands."

Googling their names a few days later, Adams said he found their accounts in newspapers as far away as Vietnam.

"Talk about starting out the day one way and it turning out completely different. We took the weekend off," he said.

Flower leis adorning their necks, Jeanne Rizzo, 57, and Pali Cooper, 48, also found themselves only minutes too late to be wed that day. Their 3 p.m. wedding canceled, the women also granted interviews to the media.

"It was better for the movement that it wasn't stopped after hours," said Rizzo, referring to the month of weddings. "It was better for the bigger work that needs to be done that the people were there and the media caught the drama of them shutting it down."

Excitement, trepidation

Rizzo, executive director of the Breast Cancer Fund, had been traveling for work when the marriages began. For days the women



Art Adams and Devin Baker gave interviews right away after the state Supreme Court halted the same-sex marriages March 11.



Jeanne Rizzo and Pali Cooper faced a crush of reporters when their City Hall wedding was stopped by the Supreme Court.

had been calling the clerk's office to schedule an appointment. Finally, while sitting aboard a plane on the tarmac at San Francisco International Airport, Rizzo got through on February 20.

"Literally, as the stewardess is saying please put away all electronic devices, someone answered my call," recounted Rizzo. "I told her I am not getting off this phone now, I have to make a reservation for my wedding."

Signing up for 3 p.m. on March 11, Rizzo had enough time to leave Cooper, a chiropractor, a message at her office. As their wedding day neared, the women invited friends and family and planned an after-party at their house.

"My whole office closed. My entire board of directors was coming to the ceremony," said Rizzo. "At the same time I had this sense of excitement, I also had some trepidation and a sadness over the fact we had to rush into our wedding."

"We weren't allowed any time. I felt this sense of urgency. I wanted to be a part of history," said Cooper.

Cooper's sister, also a lesbian, drove the couple from their home in Tiburon to City Hall, with the song "Going to the Chapel" serenading them. At 2:45 p.m. the women began filling out their paperwork, unaware the court had already issued its injunction.

"All of a sudden the media started pouring into the building. I wondered what famous person was going to get married," recalled Rizzo.

"We went to the clerk's office and two couples ahead of us were crying. They had been turned down," said Cooper. "Everybody had been told to stop filling out

their paperwork. By then there were all these cameras and lights. We walked up to the counter. We wanted to hear it. We had to be turned away."

Her partner of 15 years crying and "a basket case," Cooper said she turned to find 18 microphones and tape recorders pushed before her face.

"The reporters were trying to get the drama of the moment. It felt upsetting to me," she said. "I found it to be homophobic. The picture they sent to *USA Today* [of a sobbing Rizzo] was disgusting. I felt the local reporters were more comfortable to talk to, but the others felt almost joyful over the drama of it."

"I wanted to show my emotion but not to the rest of the country," she added.

The women's photo graced the cover of the *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe* and the *Marin Independent Journal*. They also were on countless nightly newscasts that evening.

"I just flooded. I felt so insulted and hurt," said Rizzo, who said seeing her 24-year-old son's heartache for her and Cooper made it even more upsetting. "He had to watch his mom get turned down and rejected. His look on his face stirred so much emotion in me."

For Rizzo, who had been married to a man before, she said that marriage "didn't mean a tenth to me what this did."

It took her about 30 minutes, she said, to recover her strength. "The women decided they wanted to thank Mayor [Newson] and walked up to his offices on the second floor."

"With each step I got stronger,"

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Family and supporters fight for 'all the other Gwens out there'

Editor's note: On Tuesday, June 22, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Harry Sheppard declared a mistrial in the case of three men accused of murdering East Bay transgender teenager Gwen Araujo because the jury could not reach a unanimous verdict. The case has been watched around the globe for its legal and symbolic impact upon the lives of transgender people and their right to live without hatred or fear of violence. The fight for justice for Araujo has been waged by numerous activists, advocates, and loved ones, and these are the stories of just a handful of them.

by Zak Szymanski

On April 14, the first day of opening arguments in the trial of the three men accused of murdering transgender teenager Gwen Araujo, several reporters and camera crews elbowed their way through the crowd on the second floor of the Hayward Hall of Justice, trying to capture a piece of the subtle emotions shown by those with a stake in the case.

On one side of the corridor stood the family members of the defendants — Michael Magidson, Jose Merel, and Jason Cazares — although none of them seemed to intermingle.

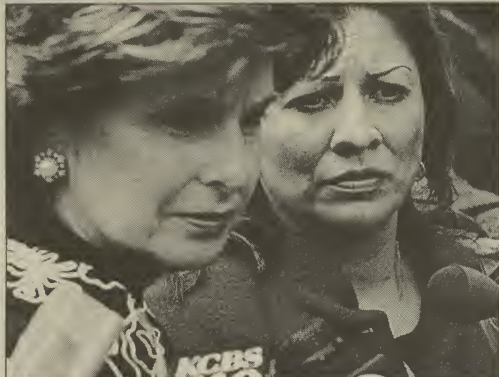
On the other side stood the family of the victim: Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero; Araujo's

siblings; her aunts and uncles and their children; the longtime friends of these relatives; and a sizable queer and transgender contingent, former strangers immediately welcomed into this inner circle with warm hugs and conversation.

When it became apparent that there were not enough courtroom chairs for all the public and media in attendance, it was the LGBT people who were called in, one by one by Araujo's family, to occupy the highly coveted seats. And this is how it is done in a family raised on unwavering loyalty and unconditional acceptance, traits that, in retrospect, may have allowed Gwen to falsely assume the same qualities of others.

The abbreviated version of a local-turned-national tragedy has been pieced together and retold across the wires: Gwen Araujo, 17, of the East Bay city of Newark, was born as a boy named Edward but lived as a female since the age of 14. She was killed at a house party in October 2002 when a group of men — two of whom she reportedly had previous sexual relations with — discovered that her biological sex was male.

In the days if not weeks leading up to her death, Araujo's killers allegedly speculated about her gender and agreed that a male-bodied person presenting as a woman would most certainly be killed if she encountered a "really bad" guy. Upon confirmation of their



Attorney Gloria Allred with Sylvia Guerrero on April 14, after opening arguments in the murder trial of Guerrero's daughter, Gwen Araujo.

suspicions, they embarked upon what witnesses say were hours of beatings, striking Araujo in the head numerous times, then restraining her, strangling her, and driving her body to a grave in the Sierra foothills, punctuating the occasion with a stop for breakfast at McDonalds.

Three men were charged with first-degree murder for her death, and all have admitted a role in the incident. But the defendants — Merel, Magidson, and Cazares, now 24 years old — maintained a "gay panic" defense throughout the trial that was based on "be-

trayal" and a "sexual deception."

The premise of such a defense is that transgenders always risk death upon disclosure of their birth sex, and are therefore obligated to disclose this life-threatening information early, to all potential attackers. The duty to disclose is also heightened, apparently, for transgenders who happen to be beautiful and capable of "fooling" people into developing an attraction.

The other assumption of such a defense — despite what the gay male acquaintances who testified on behalf of Magidson might want to believe — is that any straight male who panics over his sexuality would naturally react violently toward the perceived homosexual male in front of him.

Araujo, according to testimony, had been friendly with the defendants for about two months before she was killed. Cazares testified that he had spotted her walking along the street, offered her a ride, and ended up taking her back to the Merel home. She became a regular presence in the household, according to prosecution witness Jaron Nabors, who pleaded guilty to manslaughter in exchange for testimony against the other defendants and an 11-year prison sentence. The Merel home often hosted Nabors, the defendants, and women and friends with whom they associated, and it seemed to serve as a hangout where drinking, dominoes, and get-togethers were common.

Araujo reportedly engaged in

anal and/or oral sex with Magidson, Jose Merel, and his brother Paul. She was known to the men as a flirt named Lida, and to women like prosecution witness Nicole Brown, the girlfriend of Paul, as a threat. But most importantly to all involved, she was known as a young woman, an identity she had vocalized since childhood and had lived since her early teens.

For Araujo, hanging out at the Merel home meant "a chance to be accepted by a social group as a girl," Alameda County Deputy District Attorney Chris Lamiero said during opening arguments in the murder trial.

The defendants would soon compare notes on Araujo's sexual behavior and question her mannerisms and gender, according to testimony. They would allegedly agree upon her fate if their suspicions proved true, and they would later use her female identity as proof that they had been victimized and forced into "homosexual sex," which caused them to react "in the heat of the moment" with deadly violence (although Paul Merel, upon the discovery, left the house and did not participate in the killing).

Family members, the prosecution, and supporters spent countless hours over numerous months combating the transphobic rhetoric and blame-the-victim mentality that was allowed in court. And Araujo's killing has redefined for many people their sense of community, propelling them into action. This is the bigger picture, involving the hundreds of people involved in fighting for justice for Gwen. In particular, there is a core group of extended family, activists, and advocates — the majority of them non-transgender and/or heterosexual — who have dedicated the last year and a half of their lives to educating the public and insisting upon someone's right to live her life — and have that life be valued.

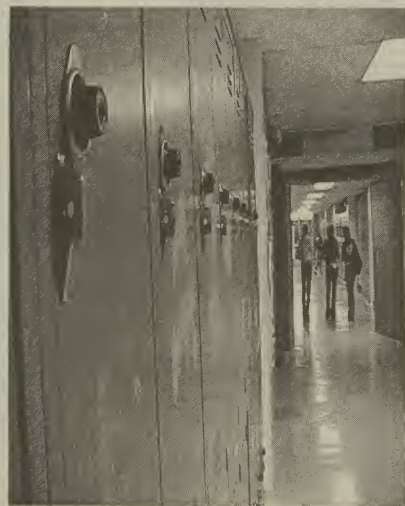
Justice seekers

Sylvia Guerrero has become the new face of transgender activism, giving interviews and speeches as a way to educate the public about her daughter's life and the lives of other transgenders. She is a regular on the San Francisco scene, where she is wel-

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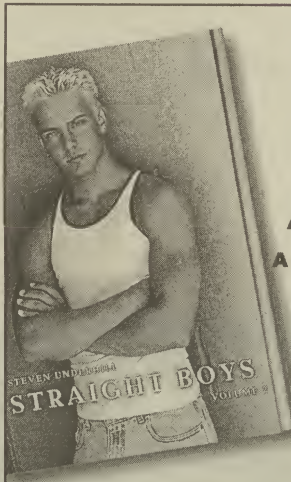
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Gwen Araujo

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comed and embraced by the community, and she has been the recipient of several awards for her advocacy and refusal to remain silent. She is joined in this effort by several members of her family.

Locally, a grassroots group known as Not in Newark formed in response to the murder, and along with nearby gay-straight alliances and PFLAG chapters, has been working to implement city-wide protections for its students and residents.

Prominent attorney Gloria Allred joined Araujo's family to help them navigate legal issues and to speak on their behalf during particularly emotional days.

And organizations like San Francisco's Community United Against Violence, the Horizons Foundation, and the Transgender Law Center routinely provided the family with support and the media with "talking points" so that the story would not be reported with bias or misinformation.

"When Gwen began living as a woman, it was not an act of deceit. She was expressing her true self to the world," read one fact sheet distributed outside the courtroom.

Furthermore, "Gwen did not steal Michael Magidson and Jose Merel's 'right' to be heterosexual. Any sexual conduct in which Magidson or Merel engaged with Gwen was completely consensual," stated the flyer. "If these young men had sex with Gwen, they did so because they found her attractive. Being attracted to a transgender woman does not mean that a heterosexual man is bisexual or gay."

In a recent opinion piece in the

San Francisco Chronicle, TLC co-founder and staff attorney Dylan Wade addressed the concept of deception, summarizing that Gwen "did not wear a sign on her forehead that said 'I am transgender, this is what my genitalia look like.'"

"But her killers didn't wear a sign on their foreheads saying, 'We might look like nice high school boys, but really, we are transphobic and are planning to kill you,'" wrote Wade in the widely distributed mainstream publication. "That would have been a helpful disclosure."

That sentiment is reflected in the message that Pearl Serrano, Araujo's older sister, hopes to convey.

"Gwen thought these people were her friends, and look what happened to her," said Serrano, 22. Araujo's family has long referred to her murder as a betrayal by the defendants, so it is ironic, she said, that the defense framed Araujo's gender presentation as the betrayal that caused her own death. "It's kind of funny they felt betrayed. They were the ones who had been talking about this behind her back."

It was Serrano who took the stand on April 15 to attest to her sister's gender identity, a task she accepted in order to fulfill a larger personal duty.

"I was Gwen's older sibling and I wanted the jurors to see Gwen through me. We are all she has to speak for her," said Serrano.

On the stand, Serrano testified that Araujo lived full-time in female role since the age of 14. Defense attorney Tony Serra tried to plant the seed that perhaps Gwen had gone "back and forth" between a male and female existence.

"No," Serrano testified. "She was true to who she was."

Later, Serrano said the ques-



Pearl Serrano and her sister, Gwen Araujo, in April 2000.

tion had irritated her. "Why would someone ask that stupid question; of course she wouldn't go back," she scoffed.

Growing up, Gwen would borrow Pearl's clothes and accessories, and often had "better everything," laughed Serrano, noting Gwen's full lips and healthy hair. They stood up for each other then, so doing so in court and in the media "kind of comes with the territory."

Imelda Guerrero, Gwen's aunt and Sylvia's sister, attributes the family's acceptance of Gwen to her mother [Araujo's grandmother], who as a Mexican immigrant and mother of 14 children, dealt with prejudice of her own and always emphasized the importance of sticking together.

Imelda remembers Gwen taking over kitchen duties as a young child and cooking her breakfast; playing with Barbie dolls; and braiding other girls' hair. At

Gwen's insistence, most of the family eventually recognized and referred to her as a female, said Imelda, but they lacked a language and an understanding of transgenders.

"To be honest, as a family, none of us knew the correct term for Gwen. It didn't matter to us when she came out to us and said she wanted to cut off her penis and asked why God had given her the wrong body. When all that happened, I had a long conversation with her. I didn't know 'transgender' but I could tell her we loved her," recalled Imelda. "It didn't matter to us. She was ours. She was one of our babies. I feel like maybe we should've done some more research, that we could have offered her help or information."

Although they cannot change what they did not know, they can try to influence the minds of others today. Araujo's family is vigilant about ensuring that she is re-

ferred to truthfully and respectfully. Sylvia, with the memory of a mother on a mission, knows by heart the people and media outlets who have refused to refer to her daughter with dignity. So it was initially hard to swallow the prosecution's strategy, said Imelda, because it did not emphasize educating jurors about Araujo's life as a woman.

Dedicating nearly every day and "almost all my energy" to the case since it first crossed his desk is the seasoned prosecutor Lamiero, who spoke to the *Bay Area Reporter* off the record during jury selection and later agreed that portions of that interview could be published.

Lamiero was well aware from the start that he would be the target of criticism by some in the community for his referral to Gwen as Eddie, a name he tended to use only when referring to the deceased; Gwen was known as a female named Lida to most of the witnesses when she was alive.

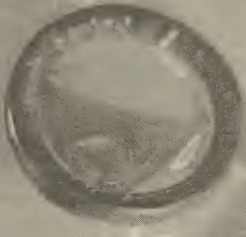
Yet to base his case on transgender-101, he said, was a risky strategy, and would take just one potentially closed-minded juror to make that approach a failure.

"My objective is a narrow one: to see that justice is done, which for me means a murder conviction as well as hate crime charges," Lamiero told the *B.A.R.* in March. Gwen's right to be Gwen, said Lamiero, was a separate issue, and not a factor when determining the legal applications of manslaughter versus murder.

Although he called witnesses to speak to Araujo's gender identity, he did not dismiss the fact that a heterosexual male would be expected to have a reaction upon discovering he had sex with a bio-

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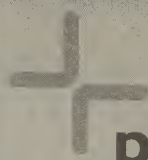
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7 Positive Force Book Club Wednesday, July 7, 6pm @ Stop AIDS Castro Office, 539 Castro Street Join the guys of Positive Force at their Book Club. Stay up on the latest reading while connecting with other HIV+ gay and bi men. For more info, please call 865-0790 ext.305.

8 Cafe Poz Thursday, July 8, 1:00 PM @ Castro Country Club, 4058 18th Street Ready for a new afternoon routine? Make a date with other HIV + men at Cafe Positive, the daytime social support event that's open to every one. Gab with the guys about the latest treatment news flash and what you think is around the corner. Beverages and light lunch are on us.

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Gwen Araujo

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logical male. But he challenged jurors to evaluate what measure of a response society should be willing to accept, and emphasized that a premeditated and deliberated attack, regardless of the emotion involved, is still murder.

Imelda Guerrero said the family had been prepared ahead of time for Lamiero's approach.

"He had warned us. We had a three-hour meeting with him and he explained his strategy because he knew we were going to be upset about it," she said.

Which is not to say that strategy sat well with Araujo's supporters. When gay men were called to testify on defendant Magidson's behalf, many wondered why distinctions weren't made between gays and transgenders. Others, however, believed that gay people were not the best people to testify to those distinctions anyway.

Imelda said that overall, she has been impressed with Lamiero, especially during his closing arguments, which were presented to the court on June 1. "There was a rhyme and reason to it all," she said of his approach, although in the wake of the mistrial, most of the family agreed that the next jury should receive more transgender education.

But Lamiero did do his part to point out gaps and absurdities in



Imelda Guerrero,
Gwen Araujo's aunt.

the defense's stories, like the unusual fact that a group of grown men who pursued and had sex with a teenager were claiming to be victims of those affections.

"Ever stop to think what it seems?" Lamiero said to the jury.

Lest we forget, Gwen Araujo was sexually assaulted by her killers. The adult men who had sex with the 17-year-old not only admitted to this assault, they used it as justification for her killing, describing the horror they felt upon forcing her down and groping her genitals, and how this distress caused them to humiliate her again and again in front of each other.

Her family reminds the media often of this undisputed testimony, although it rarely appears in print.

Nor does the fact that this trial has revived some of the most hostile anti-woman rhetoric a criminal case has ever seen.

In fact for all the insistence that Araujo was "a man," the defense has relied on just about every archaic tactic historically used to make female victims appear like they asked for it. Even as the corner's office was testifying about the multiple causes of Araujo's death, defense attorney Serra's questions remained focused on the length of the skirt worn by the bruised and bloodied body.

"It's hard to hear. They're trying to say she was this sexually flirtatious person, you know, and we were a very loving family, always touching or leaning over each other's shoulder. I could do that with someone I just met and not be flirting with someone," said Serrano, who also takes issue with the fact that Araujo was indisputably referred to as "a man" throughout the trial.

"She was only 17 years old. She was just a teenager. The killers were men. She was not."

Looking forward

In the months before the murder, said Imelda, Araujo had become withdrawn and depressed. She was fighting with her mother, as many teenagers do. And she was partying, usually coming home late, but always coming home.

Imelda had just learned that a friend had come out as a lesbian, whose girlfriend had considered transitioning when she was younger. She wanted Araujo to talk to her, to have someone "who understood." She said the family tried to talk to Araujo about the hours she kept as well as the need to be cautious as an attractive woman who got a lot of attention from males.

In many ways the family feels like transgender education was just out of reach when it came to preventing the tragedy and loss of Araujo. To that end, they have rallied around the Horizons Foundation's educational scholarship fund as a way to help prevent future hatred and violence.



Sylvia Guerrero in court during closing arguments.

Having collected about \$20,000 so far, the fund will provide small grants to school programs that promote understanding of transgender people and issues among youth; visit www.horizonsfoundation.org for information.

CUAV and TLC also plan to remain active in issues around the case and as advocates for the Guerrero family.

"We are assisting the family to make sure Gwen's identity is honored, and working to prevent other families from having to go through what they have gone through," said TLC co-founder and attorney Chris Daley, who is representing Sylvia Guerrero in civil court in her petition to legally change her daughter's name posthumously.

"No matter what the verdict, there is a need for further action," said CUAV advocate Tina D'Elia, referring to the criminal trial. The organization is in discussions around its next steps with regard to education and violence prevention.

Continued media interviews are also a necessity, said Araujo's family, because they are the only way to keep the public informed and do justice to her story.

Serrano said she and her relatives sometimes feel burned out by the amount of interviews and speaking required of them.

"But if we're not feeling up to it, we remind each other we have to do it. Gwen's story needs to be

told, and it's better that it comes from us rather than someone else."

Despite being emotionally overwhelmed, the family consented to interviews even while in the courthouse. David Guerrero, the brother of Imelda and Sylvia, and Gwen's uncle, gave one such interview to a Spanish station just as the case was wrapping up, taking extra steps to ensure that some key translations around terminology were correct.

Sylvia will continue to remain a presence, as a mother and outspoken champion of equality, education, and non-violence. She loves San Francisco, she said, and the community that has embraced her here. Like the rest of her relatives she found herself more than a year ago suddenly surrounded by LGBT activists and not knowing how to respond.

"When we first found out about Gwen's death, a lot of organizations tried to contact us. We were kind of rude to everybody. For us, it wasn't a transgender issue or a gay issue, it was a humanity issue. This was our child, our baby. And honestly, we didn't know which group to embrace, and we wanted to do it right," said Imelda, who these days is in regular contact with a variety of LGBT people and advocates around the country.

Imelda's own next steps include speaking at public schools on behalf of Araujo and other transgender people. Her first gig was secured when her friend's daughter mentioned that Gwen's case had sparked heated discussion in her classroom.

"She said, 'I wish you could have been there,' so I went and talked. And it's a goal of mine to continue to do that," said Imelda, who does not anticipate closure one way or another from a jury verdict, but does expect to be able to embark on more advocacy work.

"Maybe her death was a tool that God gave us, to make other people open their eyes," she said. "We've got a lot of work ahead of us and we just feel like, this is something we have to do. We have to do it in Gwen's name but also for all the other Gwens that are out there. Because I know they are out there." ▼

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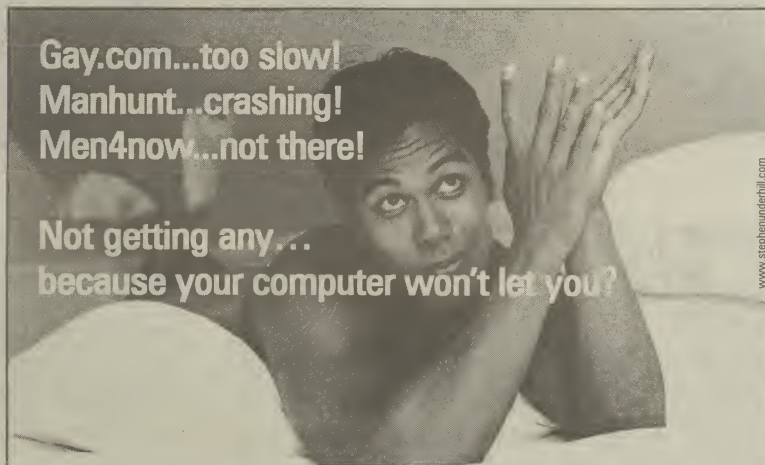
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First gay male couple to wed speaks with the B.A.R.

by Matthew S. Bajko

The call came in the morning of February 12 as John Wang walked into his office at the California State Automobile Association on Van Ness Avenue. The caller informed him that it would be his wedding day. Again.

Wang and his partner, Robert Zivnuska, had already wed in a private ceremony last fall. Having attended the couple's wedding, a friend had invited them to now be one of the first couples to be married by San Francisco officials.

"I got the call at 9 a.m. I got to my desk, put down my bag and the phone started ringing," said Wang. "Previously, they had told us it would happen at noon. They said there was no press here and we are doing it behind closed doors. They told me to come to the Assessor's office."

Reaching his partner, Zivnuska, a corporate finance lawyer, at his Embarcadero office, Wang excitedly told him to rush back toward the Civic Center and meet him at City Hall. Their second marriage ceremony, he said, was on.

Immediately after hanging up with Wang, Zivnuska rushed back on to Muni. Originally, the couple expected to be the second to wed, following after Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, the first couple to be married inside the offices of Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng that morning.

But, Zivnuska said, "I was running late."

By the time he finally arrived at City Hall, another lesbian couple, Sarah Conner and Gillian Smith, had already exchanged vows. Away from the glare of the media, Zivnuska and Wang also wed.

The two men made history as the first male couple to be married in San Francisco. Their names are listed as the third couple out of 4,037 couples who got married at City Hall between February 12 and March 11.

Declining to give media interviews that day, they have never shared their story until now. In an exclusive interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Zivnuska and Wang sat down in their Castro apartment to talk about that special day and how they became the first gay men to say "I do."

A friend, who was working with the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the mayor's office on the gay weddings, contacted them earlier in the week to see if they would want to be married again.

"We were open to it," said Wang, though the couple did have some reservations. "We were concerned. We didn't want people filming our wedding ceremony; that is a private thing. We didn't want to be poster children."

The couple called several friends who work in print media at two large West Coast newspapers for advice and if they should take part in a press conference if one was held following the ceremonies.

"Their suggestion was to work with just a few people and do an



John Wang and Robert Zivnuska were the first gay male couple to be married on February 12 in City Hall.

exclusive. They said don't do a press conference," Wang said.

As gay rights leaders and Newsom administration officials huddled inside City Hall to map out strategy and plan for the weddings, the couple said confusion over what would happen reigned as Thursday approached.

"The timeline changed a lot," said Wang.

Nor was it clear if the four couples asked to be the first to marry would end up being the only ones to exchange vows that day, recalled Wang.

"We didn't know if there would be an injunction and there would only be four couples.

Frankly, we didn't know what would happen at that point in time," he said.

While Wang did not tell his parents until after they wed at City Hall, Zivnuska said he spoke to his folks prior to that day. He said they expressed concerns, but more out of apprehension that the couple was being used as a ploy in a legal maneuver than anything else.

"They were concerned about us being part of a small group of couples being used by the mayor as a tool and the repercussions for me at work," said Zivnuska. "I said, 'Yeah, I thought we might be getting used by the mayor, but I am using him.'"

"I don't think the mayor sat there and thought 'Yeah, this would be my thing to get on the national news,'" added Wang.

After they exchanged vows, they were escorted upstairs to meet Mayor Newsom in his office. In the brief 15 minutes they spent with him, they said the three exchanged many thank yous.

"He was really excited for us and we were really excited for him," said Zivnuska.

First wedding

It was almost five months from the day they held their first wedding on September 13. The private ceremony took place at the luxurious Ritz Carlton in Half Moon Bay, situated on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

They met while in college at the University of California at Davis nine years ago. Wang, 29, and Zivnuska, 28, became domestic partners in the fall of 2002 upon returning to the city after living in the Washington D.C. area. One year later, they exchanged marriage vows in September at their own private wedding with family and friends.

To them, the service, with 55 invited guests and an Episcopal priest from Zivnuska's parish to preside over it, was more than a mere expression of commitment to each other. The hotel staff referred to their union as "the gentlemen's wedding."

"It was very important to me that it be considered a wedding. It

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Wedding dress becomes gay cultural icon

by Cynthia Laird

When attorney Molly McKay rode a motorcycle with the Women's Motorcycle Contingent in the 1998 San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade, she inadvertently created one of the community's unluckiest cultural icons. It was a wedding dress.

Since then, McKay, in one of five versions of the matrimonial attire, has been widely photographed at various rallies and events — last summer she was featured in *Newsweek* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* during a rally in the Castro following the U.S. Supreme Court's *Lawrence v. Texas* decision that nullified sodomy laws across the country. She estimates she has worn a wedding dress to hundreds of events.

This year, of course, she was wearing the dress when she and her longtime partner, psychologist Davina Kotulski, arrived at San Francisco City Hall for what they thought would be another "Freedom to Marry" rally on Thursday, February 12. It turned out to be more than just a rally — McKay and Kotulski were among the approximate 100 same-sex couples who received San Francisco marriage licenses that day. While McKay and Kotulski were aware that Mayor Gavin Newsom wanted to find some way to allow same-sex couples to wed, McKay said they thought they would be turned down — as had happened in previous years — when they went to the clerk's office and asked

for a marriage license.

Over the course of the next month, more than 4,000 same-sex couples took part in what fondly has become known as the "Winter of Love." Newsom, after attending President Bush's State of the Union address in January, had had enough with discrimination against gays and lesbians. The president had called for the need to "protect marriage" as a union between one man and one woman. Newsom — in office just over a month — began talking with his staff, city officials, and community leaders about how to end marriage discrimination in the city. On February 12, he directed County Clerk Nancy Alfaro to begin issuing same-sex marriage licenses. That unleashed a flood of overjoyed couples who lined up outside City Hall that long President's Day weekend, waiting hours in the rain at times, and led to City Hall becoming a giant wedding chapel for four weeks.

On March 11, the California Supreme Court stepped in and ordered a halt to the nuptials. The high court in late May heard arguments about whether Newsom had exceeded his authority and whether the licenses are valid. A ruling is expected this summer. At the lower court level, a judge earlier this month moved to consolidate several same-sex marriage cases; they will be heard in the coming months.

McKay, 33, quit her job as a litigator at Gordon & Rees LLP in the city in early May. Taking what she called a substantial pay cut,



Dressed in wedding attire, Davina Kotulski and Molly McKay share a kiss at a freedom to marry rally in Sacramento on Valentine's Day.

McKay is now the associate executive director at Equality California, a statewide LGBT lobbying group. She gets to work on gay marriage full time.

Kotulski, 34, is also deeply involved in the same-sex marriage fight. In March her book, *Why You Should Give a Damn About Gay Marriage*, was released. And she has often been seen at McKay's side, donning a tuxedo to accompany McKay in her wedding dress. The pair was on the cover of the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* earlier this year in their wedding garb.

Clearly, the battle for same-sex marriage is not over. The marriage licenses in San Francisco may not be valid, and while same-sex couples in Massachusetts began getting legally married on May 17, several other state legislatures have passed constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot in November. Massachusetts, in fact, is still embroiled in the issue. A proposed constitutional amendment was adopted by the Legislature that would prohibit gay marriage but allow civil unions. That amendment must again be passed by the Legislature next year, however, and then go before voters in 2006. By then, thousands of same-sex couples in the Bay State will have tied the knot.

An icon?

In a recent interview, McKay and Kotulski talked about their activism and about the fight for equal marriage rights. They have been together for eight years, and met while two-stepping at the Rawhide in San Francisco. McKay is originally from Minnesota and grew up in Southern California. Kotulski is from Portland, Oregon, and moved to the Bay Area when she started graduate studies at the California School of Professional Psychology.

McKay laughed when asked about her wedding dress being some sort of cultural icon.

"No, it's not," she said, adding that she is now on dress number five. She buys them at thrift stores or wedding shops, and has fond memories of the first one she wore in 1998. She had to "chop it off at the knees," she explained, so that the long gown wouldn't get caught in the motorcycle. Kotulski wore a tuxedo. The response from the crowd lining Market Street was more than they ever imagined, she said.

"People were screaming at us," McKay recalled.

"It was overwhelming. The next day we turned up in the paper," added Kotulski.

McKay's decision to don a wedding dress has been her way of putting a personal touch on the issue of same-sex marriage and was initially rooted in a belief that is elegantly simplistic.

"It's really like a visual aid," McKay said. "And it gives you a tactical advantage. People's first thought when they see you in a wedding dress is always positive. Then they see Davina, in her tux, and they see it [marriage] in their minds."

"It's sort of our battle dress," she said.

The charm of that first dress, however, began to wane. The dress had 100 buttons, which Kotulski lovingly fastened as McKay began wearing the dress to various events.

"It was romantic for the first 10 times," McKay laughed, "but it was very out of style."

Since then, McKay's wedding gowns have been much more practical. Her current one is a classic off-the-shoulder style. When McKay worked at the law firm, she had a wedding dress and a suit hanging on the back of her office door. And she got very good at making fast changes in all sorts of places, depending on the occasion.

"I've got it down to a science," she said. "I can get ready in that dress in the skuzziest bathrooms in 10 seconds. I pin the veil on, and throw the dress on."

She and Kotulski have participated in the Pride Parade in wedding attire every year since, and they will do so again this Sunday, though Kotulski said, "Wearing a tux in the parade is not fun."

The two never considered both wearing wedding dresses.

"Davina's got a lot of cool suits and bow ties," McKay said.

Added Kotulski, "I don't know what it would be like if we were both in dresses."

"People do a double-take when they see Davina to see if she's a boy or a girl," McKay added.

Early on, the couple often got congratulated when seen in restaurants. Sometimes they got free food.

Grassroots effort

Marriage Equality California, which McKay became involved with several years ago, is a grassroots organization that seeks to win over state residents to the idea of same-sex marriage. It is all-volunteer, and McKay, in her new position with EQCA, also remains the Northern California director of MECA.

"It started post-No on Knight," McKay said, referring to the campaign that worked — unsuccessfully — against the so-called Knight initiative (Proposition 22) that California voters approved by a 60 percent to 40 percent margin in March 2000. Michael Thurber founded MECA in Southern California and McKay quickly became involved. Another group, Californians for Civil Marriage, also started after Proposition 22 passed, but went by the wayside as MECA gained volunteers and visibility.

In 2000, McKay helped start the East Bay chapter (she and Kotulski live in Oakland). And as the gay marriage issue became more prominent in the U.S. — after last summer's Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence*, and especially after last November, when the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage, saying separate but equal institutions (such as marriage for heterosexuals and civil unions for same-sex couples) are inherently unequal — she realized she could no longer continue her day job.

"After February 12, while my law firm was so supportive of my work, it just became impossible. I realized it was time to either step forward or step back. I couldn't step back," she said.

Geoffrey Kors, EQCA's executive director, approached McKay and the two entered discussions about MECA and EQCA forming a partnership of sorts.

"I talked it over with MECA,"

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THE MAGIC CONTINUES ***

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Wedding dress

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McKay said, adding that it was important that the organization retain its grassroots foundation. "It really made sense to have a partnership with EQCA and we needed some additional resources and stability that we didn't have."

MECA retains its own Web site and logo, and continues to sponsor numerous events throughout the state. EQCA, for its part, has become more involved in the same-sex marriage issue at the political level, and continues its lobbying efforts on other LGBT-related legislation. Last year EQCA enjoyed one of its biggest successes when former Governor Gray Davis signed AB205, the law that expands rights and responsibilities to state-registered domestic partners. Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles) authored the bill, which takes effect January 1, 2005.

While supportive of domestic partner laws, McKay's core message is that they are not enough. They are not marriage.

McKay's goal now is to get MECA chapters started in all of the state's 58 counties – a daunting task. There are 32 chapters now.

"We want to build a solid network and do education so that we can pass the marriage bill and be ready for the inevitable ballot measure," she said.

McKay was referring to Assemblyman Mark Leno's (D-San Francisco) Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act that would amend the state's family code to allow same-sex couples to obtain a marriage license. Leno had to drop the bill this year after it became clear he did not have the 41

votes necessary to pass it out of the Assembly. He vows to bring the bill back on the first day of the next legislative session, which starts in early December, and has said that this time he will have the full backing of Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez (D-Los Angeles). Nunez was supportive of the bill Leno had to drop, but told reporters in May that he didn't believe this legislative session was the right time for it to be considered.

Expanding support

Something has shifted recently in the same-sex marriage debate. McKay said she thinks much of the shift has to do with non-gays coming on board in support. Gay marriage has also been embraced by more straights since last summer's *Lawrence* decision and other developments.

"That Pride week in June last year we had Canada [allowing gay marriage], then *Lawrence*. And all of that was happening around Pride time. Then, in California we got the domestic partner bill signed and then we got the Massachusetts decision," said McKay. "*Lawrence* was so vindicating because it overruled *Bowers* [v. *Hardwick*] and was so expansive."

Kotulski and McKay both think the timing of the Massachusetts decision was intentional. By giving the Legislature 180 days to develop a plan to implement the law, the first weddings took place on May 17, which was the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision that outlawed segregation in public schools.

"Wouldn't it be amazing to be in that room when the decision was made?" Kotulski asked, referring to the debate among justices on Massachusetts' high court.



In yet another version of wedding attire, Davina Kotulski and Molly McKay enter City Hall and head to the clerk's office on February 12; they would later receive a marriage license.

McKay is careful, however, to point out that the "Freedom to Marry" movement is not about dictating marriage to the LGBT community.

"It's freedom to marry, not duty to marry," she said. "We don't marry one and only one way. It's a matter of choice and there is a range of choices."

"We have to be careful – there are times I've been baited by the press," McKay said. "I'm really careful to talk about freedom and marriage is one of the many choices gays should have."

"It's awesome that International ANSWER and socialists are involved in the freedom to marry," Kotulski added. "People are seeing it as a human rights issue."

ANSWER, of course, is well-known for its antiwar rallies and marches that have been organized in cities around the world and protesting the Bush administration. But the same-sex marriage issue was one the group has added to its list of causes to support. Gay and lesbian married couples, for example, participated in a rally sponsored by ANSWER in early March when President Bush attended a luncheon fundraiser in Santa Clara. And ANSWER has come out against the Federal Marriage Amendment.

Last month, McKay received an award from the progressive Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club for her work on marriage. "I'm a big Molly McKay fan,"

club member Jerry Threet said in introducing her at the dinner. Threet married his partner, Seth Ubogy, on February 13 in City Hall.

"I wondered, who is that lesbian who doesn't take off that wedding dress and how can she afford all those dry cleaning bills?" Threet joked.

In fact, the dry cleaning bills aren't cheap. McKay said it costs between \$30-\$50 to have the dress cleaned. At first, her dry cleaning person did not know what to make of McKay regularly coming in with a wedding dress to be cleaned. McKay said she finally had to tell the woman she was an activist fighting for marriage rights.

Future plans

This fall, Kotulski will hop on board a bus and travel with other same-sex marriage proponents to Washington, D.C. She has organized the 14-stop trip, dubbed "The National Marriage Equality Express – D.C. Here We Come" to coincide with National Coming Out Day on October 11, when the California activists will gather with leaders in the marriage equality movement to speak out against the proposed federal constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage. Over the weeklong trip, the bus will stop in several cities, including Sacramento, Reno, Salt Lake City, Cheyenne, Denver, Kansas City, Indianapolis, and Cincinnati before converging with activists in the nation's capital.

"We want to put a face to the issue and explain how the Defense of Marriage Act and other state and federal discriminatory laws directly affect our lives," Kotulski said.

The timing, shortly before the November 2 presidential election, **page 71 ▶**



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GAY MARRIAGE

Couple exchanges vows for fourth time

by Matthew S. Bajko

For their March wedding, Reese Johnson and Tolver wore silver matching tuxedos. The ceremony took place in the backyard of Tolver's childhood home.

The couple's wedding, however, didn't take place during San Francisco's "Winter of Love." Long before marriage equality became the gay rights movement's cause célèbre, the two — teenagers at the time — took each other's hand in matrimony in 1987 in Austin, Texas.

"We were always a little ahead of the pack," said Johnson.

Johnson first met Tolver, who uses only one name, on Halloween night in 1985 when he and his mom attended a showing of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

"He was standing there smoking a cigarette in the hallway," recalled Tolver, 35, an employee at Mack Folsom Prison.

"We went home together that night and he never left," said Johnson, 37, a software developer.

Over a year later on Christmas, Johnson hid an engagement ring in the Christmas tree. Getting down on his knee Christmas morning, he proposed to Tolver. It never occurred to them that gay men could not get married.

"We had this idea for what appeared to be a mainstream relationship. The whole two live as one scenario," said Johnson.

Their marriage has outlasted those of their siblings and their



Tolver and Reese Johnson at their 1987 wedding in Austin, Texas.

parents. It has changed them in ways both small and profound, even reshaping their identities. Neither Reese nor Tolver are their names from birth. They decided to rename themselves after they met.

"Both of us spent a lot of time being uncomfortable with our names. There came a point in our lives when we wanted to name ourselves," said Johnson.

When gay couples are finally given full marriage rights, they intend to rename themselves again, possibly Tolver Reese and Reese Tolver or Tolver may take Johnson's last name.

"I am not sure what is going to happen with that. It is important to me that we share a name," he said. "Before our relationship was only important to us. Now it's of

a greater significance. I want to be publicly identified as part of the few, the proud, the married."

'Here we go again'

In 1994 the couple moved to San Francisco and became domestic partners in 1996 when then Mayor Willie Brown held his first mass commitment ceremony. The two would recommit themselves to each other a third time the following year when the state enacted its own domestic partner registry.

On Valentine's Day this year they took part in their second marriage ceremony, renewing their vows to one another a fourth time.

"Both of us were like, 'Here we go again,'" joked Johnson.

Initially, the couple had not

planned to go down to City Hall, "because we were broke," said Johnson. A close friend called to say he was marrying his partner and wanted them to be witnesses. He also offered to cover the cost for them to be married. That Saturday, February 14 they joined the line at 8:30 a.m. and by 2:30 p.m. were wed. Having done the mar-

riage ceremony four times now, neither expected to be overwhelmed emotionally that day.

"Out of familiarity we had kind of tuned it out," said Johnson.

But the realization that this time city officials were viewing their commitment seriously was

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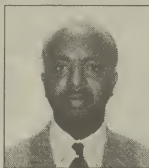


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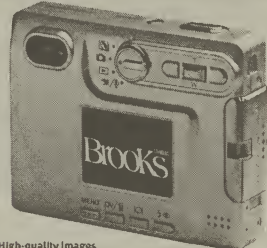
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Lesbian newlyweds promote alternative approach to healing

by Matthew S. Bajko

A pot of Ju Hua tea awaits visitors to the Castro Healing Center and Spa. The caffeine-free drink, made with Chrysanthemum flowers and used in Chinese medicine to treat the nervous system, is the first sign this is no ordinary spa or massage business.

Guests will not find facials or manicures listed on the spa's service menu. Instead they will find such items as a European Oxygen Steam Spa treatment or the Ionic Lymph Detox Footbath. The holistic healing center provides hypnotherapy, Shamanic energy medicine, and dreamwork or past life healing.

Located on Market Street next to Books Inc. and below Muscle Systems Gym, the center opened in February and is run by Bonnie Levine and Truthsayer, who uses only one name.

Together for 20 years, the women moved back to the Bay Area last year in order to open the center, which has been their long-time dream. Just days before their grand opening on February 28, they celebrated another lifelong wish: they married one another on February 19.

"We just thought it wasn't anything that was ever going to happen," said Levine. "Many times we had talked about it but gave up on

it. When all this happened, it ignited those feelings we had put aside."

The women, who would only say they are in their 50s, had tried to marry on Valentine's Day but didn't arrive in time. A week later they went back and were able to exchange vows and the rings Truthsayer had fashioned out of her grandmother's diamond wedding band on the occasion of their 10th anniversary.

"We got there before 7 a.m. and again stood in line. There were all these flowers coming in from anonymous donors all over the country," recalled Levine. "It was an incredible moment to experience the part where they said 'by the power invested in me by the City and County of San Francisco I now pronounce you spouses for life.' And to receive this document is so powerful."

Truthsayer said her feelings from that day were "so good it can't even be described. After 25 years together, and all kinds of homophobia you live with, to finally feel we were legal, that we didn't have to be second-class citizens, made me feel solid in a way I have never felt."

After they married around noon, the women stayed and volunteered to help other couples waiting to marry. Since marrying, Levine said her older sister now views Truthsayer as her sister-in-law.



Bonnie Levine and Truthsayer at the Castro Healing Center and Spa.

"She has gone from being very uncomfortable about it to talking about it to being congratulatory," she said. "I think it has made a lot of families around the U.S. come to terms with it in a different way than they did before."

Being treated with all the rights that come with marriage is one of the reasons Truthsayer said she never wanted to become a domestic partner or enter into a civil union.

"I always said that the day they allow me to get married I will get married and we did. But I didn't want to be a second-class citizen

with a civil union," she said. "It was a huge deal. It still is a big deal, but you know, we are a little bit wondering what the state is going to do."

Eventually, there is no question gays and lesbians will have the right to marry, said Truthsayer. For that reason, she is not too nervous about the state Supreme Court's ruling in the matter. Though she is bracing for a negative decision.

"If they invalidate our marriage, first of all we are going to have to fight. Secondly, it will be very enraging because once you have felt what it feels like there is no way to go back to second-class citizenship," she said. "We as a community have been fighting for a long time, and we need to continue to fight regardless of what marriage means to you individually. What the right to marry means to us, as a community, is incredibly important. If we can't marry we are not legal citizens. We have a 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' policy on who we are."

Returning home

The women first met at the Russian River Women's Weekend events over Cinco de Mayo in 1984. Since 1994, the couple had been living in Boulder, Colorado. But they always planned to return some day to San Francisco in order to open a spa in the Castro.

Finally in April 2003, they made the move back. After finding a house in San Rafael in Marin, the women started searching for a location to open the business.

Eventually they found the space on Market Street, a former record store that had been completely gutted.

"It was horrible," Levine said.

Truthsayer said the space was not attractive at all and looked more like a hole in the wall.

"It was filthy dirty. It was disgusting," she said.

But, said Levine, "the location was right. Because we are gay people, this is our extended family, the population we care about it. We feel there is a real need, with AIDS, chronic fatigue, and cancer in the gay community, there is a need for healing here."

The women performed a ritual together to ensure the space's energy was suitable for a healing center.

"We asked for guidance to help us ferret out what we want to do. This place felt right," said Levine. "We have been very welcomed here, there is a lot of good energy."

Walking into the space for the first time, Truthsayer intuitively knew they had found the spot they were looking for to open the spa. It wasn't just the energy she felt from the location, she said.

"I knew it on a feeling level. I knew it just connecting spiritually. It was like the universe gave its approval," she said. "I was feeling very positive energy, very hot energy, not so much from the whole block or the whole area, but just our space specifically."

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The spa space is rather small, with just two rooms set aside for massage tables. One is watched over by Quan Yin, a healing goddess in Chinese medicine. The second room is adorned with a Buddha: Buddhism is credited with spreading the art of massage across Southeast Asia.

A smaller room is set aside for administering the footbaths, which pull toxins out of a person's body through the bottom of their feet. The feet sit in a tub of warm water with an ionic current that enters the body, neutralizing acidity and balancing the body's pH level.

For the steam spa treatment, clients are placed inside a private steam cabinet so that their entire bodies are covered except for the head. The cabinet is then injected with activated oxygen, which enters the body's steam-relaxed pores during the half-hour treatment.

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GAY MARRIAGE

Going hi tech to the altar

SF couple has love on their minds

by Cynthia Laird

When Nikkole Gadsden and Paula Williamson met four and a half years ago, they hooked up via a Yahoo! personal ad that Gadsden had placed.

When San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom directed County Clerk Nancy Alfaro to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples on February 12, Williamson found out about it online.

And when the two women decided to get married on Friday, February 13, it was Gadsden, 28, who text messaged Williamson, 23, asking if she wanted to wed at City Hall.

Such is life in the Internet age. "I had heard earlier in the week that Mayor Newsom wanted to find some way to marry gay couples," Gadsden recounted during a recent interview at the couple's home in the Inner Sunset. But she didn't imagine it would happen so soon.

Once gay marriage became a reality on Thursday, February 12, the couple discussed it that night at home.

"We thought the courts would issue an injunction," Gadsden said.

But Friday morning came and couples were lined up outside City Hall. The marriages were continuing. Gadsden, who was on Muni en route to getting to her job in Berkeley, quickly text messaged Williamson.

"I never said no," Williamson said of Gadsden's proposal.

Gadsden returned home and the couple started to get ready.

"We had a fashion crisis, deciding what to wear," she laughed. "Then we got on a [Muni] train and went down there."

The women waited about three hours in line, and received their marriage license just after noon.

City Hall was chaotic that day. It was the second day of gay weddings, and in a courtroom across the street from City Hall, a judge was hearing arguments in a bid by the religious right to halt the nuptials. [The injunction was denied and the weddings continued.] Throughout City Hall, there were clusters of couples getting married, and a huge line of couples making their way to the clerk's office for the paperwork that would make them "spouses for life." More couples were in line outside City Hall.

Despite the frenzied environ-

ment, there was a sense of calmness, and time stopped for Gadsden and Williamson once they were on the Rotunda steps, facing each other with hands joined, as Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng performed their ceremony.

"It happened in such a sudden way that it was a bit shocking to find myself standing on the steps of City Hall getting married," Gadsden said. "It wasn't anything I ever expected to have happen and with all the people coming over to watch and camera flashes going off it was just like 'whoa,' this is very serious."

"This made the ceremony different than when you spend months planning a wedding and have friends and family crowd around you and there's a lot of leading up to the event versus this, which was just like bam! here we are."

Teng was "intense and serious" in performing the nuptials, Gadsden added.

Friends and family

Gadsden and Williamson met in New York City. Two years ago, the women quit their jobs and headed west to San Francisco. Today, Gadsden works as an administrative assistant in the housing offices at the University of California, Berkeley. Williamson is a psychology student at California State University, Hayward and works part time for a company that conducts public opinion polls, mostly in health-related areas.

Williamson has seen the marriage issue crop up in her job. In particular, it was noticeable when she was calling people for a survey on smoking in the LGBT community as the same-sex marriages were under way.

"One of the questions asked on the survey was 'Are you married?' and some people would say, 'Oh, I just got married yesterday,'" Williamson recalled.

"Our friends are thrilled and they took us out that night," Gadsden said.

Later at the Metro bar, it was announced on the public address system that the women had gotten married. The crowd went crazy.

"Most people we tell are very happy," Gadsden added. One of her bosses is gay, and she had to call in to work, saying she was getting married.

Telling their families was another matter. While Gadsden's family in New York is more accepting of her, Williamson's family in

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is not.

Once the ceremony was over, Gadsden called one brother, who was surprised at the news. She then called her father.

"He had a premonition and said, 'I saw it on TV. I thought you might go down there,'" Gadsden said.

Her other brother "was in a state of shock," and Gadsden also called her sister.

Williamson said she has not told her family.

"They're not very accepting. I've been gone since I was 17," she said. "My mom knows I'm gay. My father and grandfather do not."

Though Williamson said her grandfather was up on the news of San Francisco's same-sex weddings.

"I called home and my grandfather said, 'They're marrying people there,' so I wonder if he knows," said Williamson. "I think everyone in Pittsburgh except my family knows we got married."

"My family is more accepting. They've met Paula," Gadsden added, though she said she has met Williamson's family in 2000 and said "it was a pleasant visit overall."

Equal rights

Neither Williamson nor Gadsden supported Newsom in last year's mayoral race, voting instead for Matt Gonzalez. They didn't think much when Newsom took office in January. That changed, however, in February.

"I didn't expect it in a million



Newlyweds Nikkole Gadsden and Paula Williamson at home.

years," Williamson said of Newsom's actions. It's nice for a change to be pleasantly surprised."

The women went to City Hall the night they got married, as Newsom was hosting a party for the gay community that turned into a giant wedding reception.

"They were still marrying people," Williamson said.

She never expected the wedding march to continue as long as it did, and now sees the importance of civil marriage rights.

"Why shouldn't I be able to do it?" Williamson said. "Civil unions are not equal. I don't almost pay my taxes - I pay my taxes."

Married life has been good for the couple, and for how they feel about their new home.

"I think getting married made me like San Francisco more," Williamson said, adding she's had a hard time adjusting because the city is "so small" compared to New York. There was a poll Williamson

saw showing that 80 percent of city residents agree with the gay marriages.

"So I thought, it's not so bad living here." ▼

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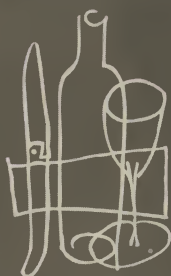
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In good times and bad, Calvin Gipson's smile never diminishes

by Matthew S. Bajko

In the middle of lunch at Sultan, an Indian restaurant in the Tenderloin, Master Pimp Daddy Calvi G's cell phone rings. Replacing the usual bell tone is a snippet of rapper 50 Cent's "In Da Club."

"Go, go, go shawty /It's your birthday /We gon' party like it's yo birthday"

Asked if it is indeed his birthday, the hip-hop loving Calvi G replied, "Everyday is my birthday!"

These days life has become one big party for Calvi G, i.e. Calvin Gipson, the community grand marshal at Sunday's Pride Parade. Tonight Gipson will be feted along with the other community and celebrity grand marshals at a party in a downtown hotel and on Sunday, seated in a convertible and decked out in a gold lame suit that shimmers pink, he will lead a 75-person contingent from the black gay community in the parade. Then it is off to the Soul of Pride African American stage and village for seven hours of black entertainment.

"My goal is to put a black face on gay America and a gay face on black America. Black people are invisible in the gay community," said Gipson, who founded and organizes the black Pride stage and this year instituted San Francisco

Black Pride, a week's worth of events for the black gay community.

Breaking down barriers

For years this former minister who led a secret life as a gay man has been breaking down barriers for gay people of color. In doing so he has faced down, at times, vehement attacks on his character and integrity. It is nothing new for Gipson, 43, who as a teenager helped to integrate Denver's public schools.

Both his parents grew up in Oak Grove, Louisiana where blacks were relegated to one side of the street and the back door entrances to white-owned businesses and houses.

Gipson's father joined the Army as a way to escape from the Deep South. He was stationed in Colorado and raised his family there.

"In the fifth grade I was bused to school. I was part of the school integration generation," said Gipson. "I went to Hamilton Junior High School and the white kids threw eggs at the bus."

In high school Gipson began to act on his being gay, sneaking off to meet men in a local park. He joined a choir and in his senior year attended his first concert: Gloria Gaynor and the Village People.

"It was my first exposure to the San Francisco-style of a gay com-

munity. There were all these gay men there dressed in Levi's and T-shirts, leather and chaps, harnesses and all that. I was just 18 years old," said Gipson.

But unlike other young gay men who burst out of the closet in college, Gipson would take a different path. He converted to Christianity and became a minister of the Church of Christ, a conservative fundamentalist church.

He reckons his low self-esteem and discrimination he faced as a black man made him susceptible to entreaties by church members.

"I denounced being gay," said Gipson. "I was at a vulnerable state. I was a loner and the people from the church reached out to me. I thought I could either have them as my friends or be alone."

His reputation as a talented choir director would lead him west, when in 1985 he became a minister at Cal State Hayward. Throughout the 1980s Gipson dated women, while at night, he would scour parks and alleys to have sex with men on the "down low."

Prior to accepting the Hayward post, Gipson revealed to church leaders he was gay and asked if that would be a problem. He said he was told it would not be. However, that would not be the case.

He had to publicly confess his homosexuality and gross sexual sins first before 300 people and then before the 2,000-member

congregation in San Francisco. Twelve men then held an intervention, isolating Gipson in a dark room in a house in the Oakland hills. For two hours the men berated him, telling him he would catch AIDS and die if he didn't go straight.

"After two hours they said 'Okay. Where do you stand?' I said 'I am still gay.' I was put under house arrest in Oakland for one month," said Gipson.

Church officials feared Oakland's close proximity to San Francisco provided too much of a temptation for Gipson, so they moved him to Sunnyvale near San Jose. He soon found the Water Gardens, a local bathhouse, and at a local gay bar met an airline pilot. Their friendship empowered Gipson to have the courage to leave the church for good. In 1991 he broke free to live life as an out gay man.

Becoming active in SF

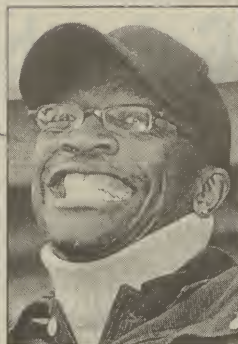
Landing a job as a computer salesman, Gipson also volunteered his time with the South Bay chapter of Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. He sang with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, becoming leader of the bass section, and in 1994 served on the chorus' board. It would be his first taste of the animosity one often faces when being a leader who pushes for change.

Several board members moved to institute performance reviews of the chorus' then-executive director and artistic director. No such assessments had ever been done before and some of the chorus members saw it as a way to fire the two. Gipson said nothing could have been further from the truth.

The men's jobs were never threatened, Gipson said. The experience taught him a valuable lesson for when he would become president of the Pride Committee's board of directors in 1998.

"Dealing with 200 queens and divas prepared me for San Francisco Pride," joked Gipson.

At the time, as an event planner whose clients included technology giants Oracle and Sun Microsystems, Gipson felt he had the experience needed to oversee one of the world's largest Pride events. Approached by several members of the board, he was asked to not only become a director but immediately take on the president's post. He would be only the second black man known to fill the role. Ken Jones served as president in the late 1980s and is thought to be the first black president of Pride.



Pride Parade grand marshal Calvin Gipson speaks at a San Francisco rally held May 17 to celebrate same-sex marriages in Massachusetts.

Gipson's tenure at the helm of Pride was like being the captain of a ship roiled by a rough sea. He faced a series of accusations and recriminations. Questions arose over whether he was suitable to serve as president. Members of the board who wanted the job viewed Gipson, who lived in Berkeley at the time, as a carpetbagger who hadn't put in the time to be president.

"I believe what they meant was a black person is not supposed to have the power associated with being president of the Pride Committee. It was not my place," said Gipson, who moved to San Francisco once he joined the board. "As president I had horrible things happen to me."

In 2000 Gipson faced accusations he rigged the voting for the parade grand marshals so his boss, Glide Memorial Methodist Church Reverend Cecil Williams, would win.

Gipson, who has worked as Glide's managing director of human services since 1996, denied the charges, saying publicist Allen White made the allegation after his public relations contracts with both Pride and Glide were not renewed. Williams and his wife, Janice Mirikitani, nonetheless stepped down as grand marshals that year.

White declined to comment on the allegations, and said he did not want the controversy to cloud Gipson's day.

Last year the Pride Committee selected Williams as the first recipient of its lifetime achievement grand marshal honor. Gipson had the honor of introducing Williams to the crowd later that Sunday. The ordeal taught him a valuable lesson, he said.

"When Cecil and Janice withdrew from being grand marshals they choose humility. The lesson I learned is sometimes you have to be humble," he said.

Through it all Gipson persevered, helping to diversify not only the Pride board but also the event itself. He said not once did

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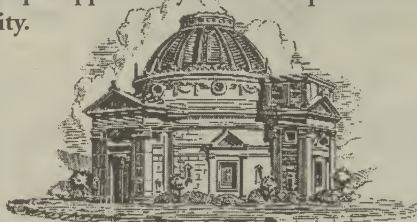
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Kate Raphael's coming home for Pride

by Cynthia Laird

Kate Raphael is one of those activists who can't remember a time when she wasn't fighting for justice. Whether it was delaying the opening act of the San Francisco Opera's *Falstaff* in 1989 to raise AIDS awareness or participating in actions in the city last year after the start of the war in Iraq, Raphael is committed to social change. On Sunday, June 27, Raphael will march proudly as one of the community grand marshals in the LGBT Pride Parade.

Raphael, 44, has spent much of the last couple of years in the Middle East. In January, she was arrested by Israeli authorities and spent nine days in jail before leaving the country. But she soon returned. Currently, she is in the occupied Palestinian territories, working part-time with International Women's Peace Service.

"Right now, our work is mainly opposing the Apartheid Wall, because the army has just begun destroying trees and crop land in several villages in our area," Raphael said in an e-mail to the *Bay Area Reporter* last week. "I am also studying Arabic and volunteering for Addameer, a Palestinian organization which works on behalf of political prisoners."

At first glance, Raphael's actions might seem unusual. She's a lesbian Jewish activist deeply involved in helping Palestinians secure an independent state. It was when she was a young adult that she began "questioning Israel's legitimacy," she said.

"I grew up in a very Zionist family," Raphael said, adding she was raised in Richmond, Virginia. But in college she became involved in the movement for divestment from South Africa. "I took a seminar on South Africa and I learned that Israel was the major supplier of arms and other goods to the apartheid regime, basically acting as a surrogate for the U.S., which officially did not do business with the South African government. That caused me to look closely at Israeli society, and I learned a lot of things that upset me."

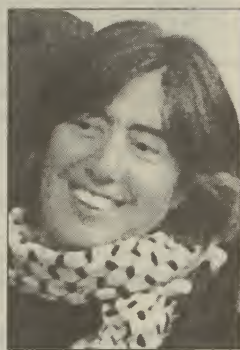
In the mid-1990s, Raphael read the English-language Palestinian press, and became aware that things were not moving toward peace.

Raphael helped restart San Francisco Women in Black, which still has vigils the first Friday of each month to protest war and occupation in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere.

"In early November [2000], after experiencing homophobia at some demonstrations led by the straight left and some conservative Muslim groups, we formed QUIT! [Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism], which aims to increase queer visibility in the broader Palestinian movement, and to raise awareness of this particular national liberation struggle in the queer communities," she said.

Answering her critics

But Raphael has her critics. There are some in the LGBT community who question her commit-



Longtime activist Kate Raphael

ment to LGBT-specific causes. Others question why she's involving herself in Middle East actions when so many Muslims are antigay.

"This is an issue I talk about a lot, because I do get that comment a lot," she said, referring to homophobia within the Muslim community. "Yes, official Islam is antigay and so are most of official Christianity and official Judaism. I often say that after we win a democratic secular state in Palestine, we can start working on getting one in the U.S. Palestinian society is antigay and there have been some recent documented human rights abuses against queer people, which is unacceptable."

"But Palestine is not at all unique in this respect, and ultimately, the occupation only makes the situation of Palestinian queers more dire," she added.

She does not, however, tolerate putting discussion of LGBT issues off until "after the revolution," she said.

"I even brought up the issue with some straight feminist friends in Tulkarem, a small northern Palestinian city. They argued that there are no lesbians in Palestine (they didn't even know what the word meant). I insisted that there are. In the end, they said, 'Well, it must be very hard for them.'"

Regarding LGBT-specific work, Raphael said she has done a lot over the years.

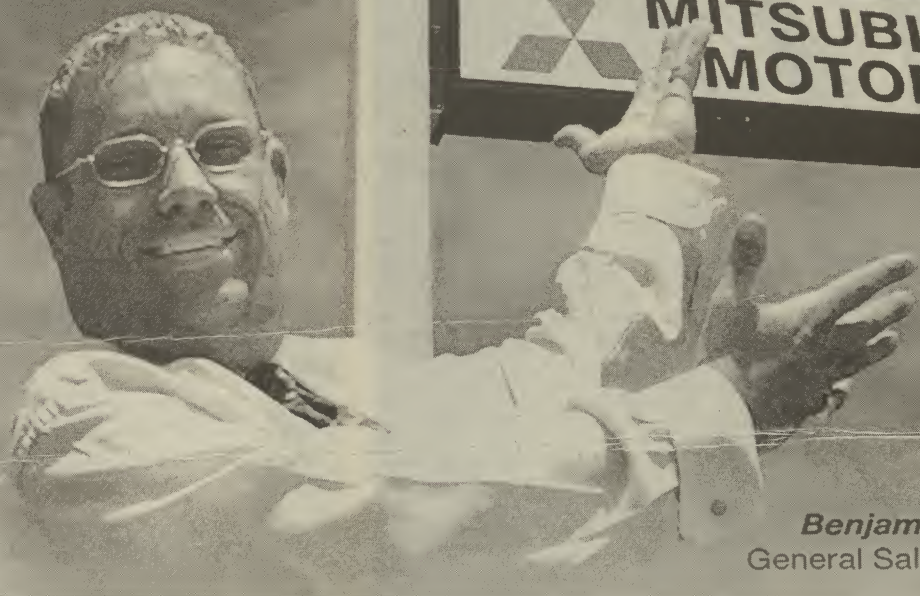
"The group that I have been part of for the longest time is LAGAI Queer Insurrection (formerly Lesbian and Gay Insurrection), which is one of the oldest radical queer liberation groups in the country, maybe the oldest at this point. Our politics are anti-assimilationist, so we do not work on gay marriage except to make fun of it sometimes (we did the first ever mass LGBT divorce back in 1998). Our position is that we don't want the state in our bedrooms, or in our relationships or our lives, in any way."

Proud moment

Raphael said that one of her proudest moments as an activist occurred on September 8, 1989, when Stop AIDS Now or Else disrupted opening night at the San Francisco Opera. Members of SANE purchased cheap tickets and about 50-100 protesters rushed into the audience, blowing whistles and scattering leaflets

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MCC's Troy Perry advocates for all

by Cynthia Laird

The Reverend Troy D. Perry founded the Metropolitan Community Churches in October 1968, in Los Angeles, and today, the fellowship boasts nearly 300 churches in 22 countries. MCC has been at the vanguard of the civil and human rights movements, and has long been a staunch proponent of same-sex marriage. On Sunday, June 27, Perry will ride in San Francisco's LGBT Pride Parade as a grand marshal and be recognized for his lifetime of service.

Perry, 63, married his longtime partner, Phillip Ray De Blicke in a private ceremony in Toronto last July. He is now one of those leading the fight for marriage rights in California in particular and in the United States as a whole.

Perry began his vocation in Florida when he was 13 and was licensed as a Baptist minister two years later. During that period, according to MCC's Web site, he became aware of his sexual orientation and felt — as many gays did in rural America — that he must certainly be the only one in the world who felt that way.

In 1959 Perry married his pastor's daughter and a year later, the couple, along with their newborn son, moved to Illinois where Perry planned to attend Midwest Bible College. Perry, who worked for a plastics company, moved to Southern California with his wife and family (by this time another son was born) in 1962.

Once in California, Perry was



MCC founder the Rev. Troy Perry

assigned to pastor the Church of God of Prophecy in Santa Ana. It was there that he experienced an "uneasy" coming out and came to terms with his sexuality. He and his wife separated after five years of marriage and later divorced.

When Perry returned to Los Angeles after a two-year stint in the Army, he had set his course.

"The Lord was dealing with me. My previous church taught that you couldn't be a Christian and a gay person, too," he said in a statement. "I kept this up until one day God got a word in edgewise and said, 'Don't tell me what I can do. I love you, Troy. ... reread my word.'"

Perry founded MCC shortly after that.

Perry has served on a number of boards of LGBT organizations over the years. He held a seat on the Los Angeles County Commis-

sion on Human Relations. In 1978 he was honored by the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian and Gay Rights chapter with its Humanitarian Award. He holds honorary doctorates from several colleges, including the Episcopal Divinity School in Boston and Samaritan College in Los Angeles.

In 1977 Perry attended the first-ever White House meeting of gay and lesbian leaders during the Carter presidency, and was appointed as a delegate to the White House Conference on Hate Crimes by former President Clinton.

The current Bush administration has also honored MCC, though most likely not intentionally. Last October, during the same week that President Bush endorsed the antigay "Marriage Protection Week," he sent an enthusiastic letter to MCC, congratulating the fellowship on its 35th anniversary.

As reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*, the move left Perry and others scratching their heads over the apparent mixed messages conveyed by the president.

Bush's letter to MCC stated in part, "By encouraging the celebration of faith and sharing of God's love and boundless mercy, churches like yours put hope in people's hearts and a sense of purpose in their lives. This milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on your years of service and to rejoice in God's faithfulness to your congregation."

The White House last November did not return a call from the B.A.R. seeking comment on the letter.

MCC churches perform about 6,000 holy union commitment

ceremonies annually. They are not recognized as legal marriages in other U.S. churches — except Massachusetts — or in most countries.

But Perry continues to fight for

marriage equality, and against other forms of discrimination against LGBT people. And MCC churches continue to be a source of inspiration and faith for many in the community. ▼

Happy Pride

by Zak Szymanski

As someone whose activism has focused on personal creativity and public access to the arts, Happy Hyder, 57, said having that work recognized is meaningful, and it feels "especially good to be honored by the queer community" as a grand marshal in this year's LGBT Pride Parade.

A photographer and visual artist for 35 years, Hyder founded the nonprofit organization Lesbians in the Visual Arts in 1990. The organization has been described as "an international network where we can dialogue about issues in contemporary art as well as issues specific to being a lesbian in the visual arts," and her work there focuses on organizing exhibits and support for women artists, as well as convincing community at large to purchase living, local work.

Hyder is also Arab American, a loaded identity in these political times, and she has always been aware of her duty as a minority artist to be political about her artistic creations. One of her major installations was called "Accepting Their Fears as Valid" — a publicly displayed double-glass joined closet door through which people could walk — which was meant to represent what happens when families remain in the closet about their queer loved ones.

When she's not creating or encouraging others to do so, she uses her own experiences to bring attention to the intersections of race and sexual orientation, speaking on various panels and at conferences, and participating in a growing network of LGBT Arab people.

Hyder has been the recipient of awards for providing opportunities to others, like the Bay Area Career Women's Lesbians of Achievement, Vision & Action award in 1996. Her organization LVA was also honored by Equal Rights Advocates in 2000.

Recently, Hyder has been preparing for her first exhibit in New York City, which takes place at the end of the month.



LVA's Happy Hyder

She has also launched a redesign of LVA's Web site, to improve its function as a community bulletin board and virtual gallery space for artists. After years of exhibiting "over 100 visual artists at various galleries in cultural centers throughout San Francisco," according to the LVA site, "we can now make this work and even more lesbian artists' work available internationally with our online presence."

Two exhibitions — *Active Edge* (1999, Mission Cultural Center) and *Depth & Distance: Work by lesbian artists 55 and older* (2003, The Center, April 1-May 17, 2003) — are now available online. More exhibits will be posted soon.

This Pride season, Hyder will speak at the Dyke March, and also on the Pride main stage on Saturday afternoon.

"The excitement is building. I'm looking forward to the adventure of being grand marshal," said Hyder, who added that anyone who would like to march with her is welcome to join her contingent, which will be participating with a "progressive lefty bent."

On the "Out 4 Justice" theme, Hyder said, she is happy that Pride is embracing a meaningful message once again.

"I was very glad to see that the parade is blatantly political again this year. It's been a long time." ▼

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GRAND MARSHALS

One Hek of a Pride marshal

by Zak Szymanski

You can't get much more popular than Heklina, the hostess, producer, and creator of Trannyshack, San Francisco's longest running drag performance night club.

The all-offensive weekly party, held each Tuesday night at the SOMA nightclub the Stud, features both "low-brow trash" and "high performance art," depending on the crowd. And it has put San Francisco nightlife on the map; *Out* magazine named it one of the top 10 reasons to move to San Francisco, and both VH1 and an independent filmmaker are in the process of making documentaries about the experience.

Now eight years old, Trannyshack was started "as a lark," said Heklina, who was simply looking for an alternative to clubbing.

"I had fallen into an underground performance scene. Everyone I knew were performers or artists, although many of them have since passed away. I don't like going out to dance; there has to be some kind of focal point for me. There was a real dearth of things to do when I started Trannyshack. It was kind of a fluke that it took off the way that it did."

Heklina, 37, received the second largest number of votes for Pride marshal during general public balloting, just for being herself. Upon her selection as a parade grand marshal, when others were polishing their sound

bites and speeches, she issued the following media statement: "I am tickled Pink, and swollen up with Pride."

She says her grand marshal role is a voice for those not usually represented in the LGBT community.

"One of the reasons I fell in love with this city when I first moved here [in 1991] was that it was so diverse here. Over the years, with the mainstreaming of everything, a lot of that has kind of disappeared," said Heklina. "I'm trying to hold up that feeling that not everything has to fit into some cookie cutter. Not all of us are a part of the Queer-as-Folking – or the Will-and-Gracing – of our community."

Although Heklina says she does not get involved with what are considered to be "mainstream gay issues," she does recognize that there is something inherently political about giving the public a venue in which to express their full selves, without censorship or

fear of repercussions.

Still, such freedom of creativity has stirred some political controversy; several months ago some Trannyshack participants performed in blackface, which was both condemned and defended by members of the LGBT community and became a debate of appropriateness over freedom of speech. Heklina now says she would have advised against the performance, but firmly maintains that there "are no sacred cows" at Trannyshack.

"It's about being irreverent. There are no taboos," she said, adding that "it's funny to see what isn't considered offensive, like AIDS jokes and acts that make fun of gay people."

Heklina believes she is being honored by the community for "keeping nightlife alive" in San Francisco, as Trannyshack is "the last bastion of bohemia, and people want to be a part of it. They get excited about having a space for people to perform."

Yet Heklina has plenty of achievements in addition to her midnight shows, including performing at local street fairs and private parties, operating Heklina.com as a community bulletin board for the obscure crowd, and organizing the yearly Trannyshack bus trip to Reno. And let's not forget her appearances on both the *Jerry Springer* and *Ricki Lake* shows.

And Heklina is perhaps most unrecognized for her charitable efforts, hosting benefits for Pets Are Wonderful Support; Project Open Hand, Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic, Bay Positives, the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, the AIDS Emergency Fund, and the Rescue Animal Shelter, Community United Against Violence, Marriage Equality, and other organizations, including the recent bike-to-work day benefit for the SF Bicycle Coalition.

This week, in celebration of Pride, Trannyshack makes it to the outside world with a special per-



The one and only Heklina

formance tonight (Thursday, June 24) at Harvey's in the Castro. The event begins at 10 p.m.

Heklina will also attend the grand marshal activities, and will serve as a DJ on Live 105 radio on Saturday, June 26.

"I'm going to all of the events. I love gay Pride week, I go into overdrive and try to do everything," said Heklina. "I'm going to have fun with it. And I'm excited to be a part of it." ▼

Calvin Gipson

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he think of walking away and resigning from the board.

"I am not afraid of anybody. I am full of confidence. I am probably overconfident," he said. "The reason is because my experiences in life prepared me for the challenges of the Pride Committee. I never got to a point where I was discouraged."

He oversaw the addition of numerous stages representing various ethnicities at the Sunday festival. In conjunction with Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington, Gipson helped turn Pride around from an event losing money to one that returned thousands of dollars to nonprofit community groups.

He opened up the organization's meetings, finances, and records to the public and instituted community rap sessions so

various groups in the LGBT community, from Asians to transgenders to people in the leather community, could help shape Pride into a better event.

The efforts paid off. "Guess what? All of my naysayers went away. The community stepped forward and it's been positive ever since," he said. "We took the party to 10 stages. I am the one who changed Pride's reputation of being disorganized and full of drama to an event that is very well

organized."

Being voted by the community to lead its Pride Parade is validation of all his hard work and struggles he faced along the way, Gipson said.

"It's like I am loved," he added. "It definitely feels validating, like the community is supporting me. All along I felt like the community was behind me and it was just a minority of people who didn't want me to succeed. But I succeeded." ▼

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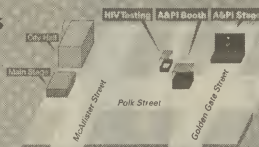
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Woo and Chung

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1990. During sunrise at KaiLua Beach on Oahu, Hawaii the women exchanged rings and recited vows to each other before family and friends.

Eleven years later, during Pride weekend in June 2001, they opted to become domestic partners. The state had just adopted new rights for domestic partners, and the couple wanted to protect Woo's rights in being a parent to Chung's daughter, Olivia. The family had just undergone a second-parent adoption.

Standing in front of City Hall with former Mayor Willie Brown presiding, the two women professed their love for one another a second time. But unlike the privacy of their beach ceremony, this public service landed them on the front page of newspapers.

"I wore a 20-foot-long blue veil," said Chung, which garnered the attention of numerous news photographers.

After the burst of media attention, the family returned to their normal routine. Woo groomed her client's dogs while Chung looked after Olivia. Their social life evolved around their daughter and the straight parent community.

Then came Valentine's Day weekend 2004, with gay and lesbian couples from around the world rushing to San Francisco to marry. On Sunday, February 15 the family decided to join the throng.

Waiting for seven and half hours in the rain, they stood in line for the chance to say, "I do." But it never came.

At the end of the day, city officials announced they could only take a few more couples. "They

cut it five people in front of us," said Woo.

"The emotions of the day were really hard. You are thinking 'Oh, we are going to get in.' Then 'Oh, no we aren't going to get in.' It was a real roller coaster ride," said Chung.

With no guarantee of getting in on Monday, and with their daughter already having spent six hours playing with another couple's kids in the car, the women decided to head home.

"The kids had had enough. They hit a wall," said Woo.

"Monday we were in a zombie state," said Woo.

"It took a week to get over it. We went away for my birthday and then decided to make an appointment," said Chung.

The date they secured, March 30, turned out to be 19 days too late.

"Once we found out we could not get married, it was like 'Oh.' Up until then I had not thought much about it," said Woo. "When it was available and then they took it away, that was devastating."

The women never seriously considered going to Canada or Massachusetts to marry.

"We have our daughter to consider. It is hard to pack up as a family and do it," said Chung. "Lancy is our sole provider. We can't afford to do those things. As parents you have to keep considering how will this affect our daughter?"

Since her moms became spokespeople for marriage equality, Olivia has been affected, Chung said.

"I think she is really proud of it, that we are fighting for our rights," said Chung.

"In a 6-year-old's eye, she doesn't understand why we can't get married," added Woo.

"Disney is all about marriage," said Chung referring to movies

Olivia watches. "She talks about not being sure who she is going to get married to, a woman or a man."

The parents of Olivia's school friends have also been impacted by the couple's fight. Parents the couple have become friends with through their kids, they find, are now questioning their own beliefs about marriage and gay rights.

"They think we are great people, love us as a family, yet their religious beliefs are against us getting married. It is hard for them to deal with that contradiction," said Chung. "We have had good conversations with people about it. It is complicated for them."

While gay couples are increasingly raising kids, it is still a rarity and gay parents are more the exception than the rule, said Chung.

"Any play group I have been in I am the only queer woman. Once you step into the mainstream parenting community, we are a small minority," she said.

Being domestic partners, and with AB205 – which will raise domestic partnerships to a level more even with marriage – set to take effect in January 2005 gives them a modicum of relief that their family will be protected.

"It's not all of it but it helps," said Chung.

Fighting for marriage rights is important, Woo said, because gay and lesbian couples should not be forced to go through so many legal hoops to protect their families. She has had to go through the adoption process and create a living trust to ensure her business and possessions will go to Cristy and Olivia.

"It is not fair to have to go through so many steps when married people have that right to instantly get married and have that paperwork be taken care of," she said. ▼



Mariah Sparks, left, and Yvette Balderas at an August 2003 benefit for Community United Against Violence.

Hate

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Yet Gomez and Sparks said that those who did step forward – either to testify or to attend court hearings in solidarity – also helped the victims restore their faith in human beings, and the people they now call "community" represent a broad range of backgrounds, genders, sexualities, races, and ethnicities.

"To not feel safe at lesbian events, that was a hard one," said Sparks. But her introduction to a variety of new people – especially the advocates at Community United Against Violence – opened her eyes to a support system she had all along. "I discovered there were segments of my community that always had my back that I didn't even know."

"To have people show up at court – people we didn't even know – was extremely encouraging," said Gomez. "It inspired us to really see it through."

On May 13, over the objection of the district attorney's office, CUAV, and the victims, Broughton was sentenced by Superior Court Judge Kay Tsenin to just one year of house arrest and three years of probation.

Sensitivity training also was not mandated for Broughton due to his enrollment in anger management classes and Tsenin's assertion that his racist and homophobic remarks were just "the alcohol talking."

To the victims, the racial implications of how Broughton was treated by the system are impossible to ignore. If Balderas or

Gomez had injured Broughton, for instance, both believe they would have been sent to prison. And "if Broughton were not a white man this would have been a very different trial," said Sparks.

"If he could not afford a high powered lesbian lawyer this would have been a very different trial."

The victims have not received their wish that Broughton be educated around issues of diversity, but it hasn't stopped them from educating others. They have joined CUAV's speaker's bureau to talk to students in area schools about the need for respect and non-violence.

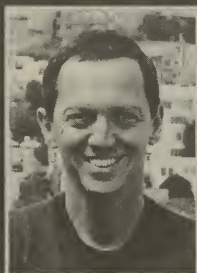
"My story can be used to make a realistic connection to people. When they hear that it happened at a queer party in San Francisco, many people are shocked," said Balderas, who added that in many circumstances she could be the first queer person the members of the audience meet, a position that makes her both vulnerable and powerful.

The victims also take comfort in the fact that Broughton was not allowed to walk away from what he did. He may enjoy the comforts of house arrest, but he lives with a felony "strike" on his record. The repeated court appearances disrupted his own life as well, and the charges reportedly got him into alcohol and anger counseling, which Gomez said he hopes will save Broughton's children from repeating the cycle of violence.

"We were lucky enough to have resources and evidence to hold the attacker accountable," said Gomez. "Even if his punishment amounts to a slap on the wrist, he knows now he can't get away with this kind of behavior." ▼

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Waiting to wed

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Jose and became political activists, appearing on television to encourage South Bay voters to support an antidiscrimination bill.

Before any gay marriages had taken place, the women had agreed several years ago to be plaintiffs if a lawsuit challenging the state's antigay marriage laws was ever filed. They reasoned since they were now retired, "We are secure. They couldn't hurt us." Plus, Beals's niece works at NCLR and knew how important marriage was to her aunt's partner.

"For me it is a more emotional thing. For 60 years I have not been seen for who I am. I was invisible because society has never accepted me for who I am," explained Matson. "As far as I am concerned I was born this way. I refuse to use the word preference. It was not my preference to be born this way. Marriage is the last big step in my life. Finally I will have made the mainstream like everybody else."

As she watched couples marry in Massachusetts in May, and delighted at seeing Mitt Romney, a Mormon, deal with that as gover-

nor, Matson's desire to marry only became that much stronger.

"She wanted to just get on a plane," said Beals.

Their vehicular exchange of vows, said Matson, "changed my view of our relationship but still that marriage piece, that is really necessary for me. That piece has got to be there before I die."

At the moment, Matson's confidence she will realize that dream is dwindling. "It scares the hell out of me," she said.

Yet Beals said she is confident that day will come.

"Part of America's myth or story is we don't treat people separately or unequally. It is time for the courts to take it on and do it," she said.

The women intend to wait to see how the lawsuit progresses through the courts before deciding if they will go elsewhere to wed so Beals can keep her one-year promise to marry Matson.

"I really like the idea of getting married in City Hall. It is really beautiful and where it all started," said Matson. "We are keeping our options open. I plan to stay healthy and be married by 75. I get a little impatient though. I want to do it now. I want to get it done." ▼

Brothers

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mind we were," added Frazer.

The day the "Winter of Love" began, the two sat in a hotel room in London watching the gay couples marry on CNN. They had just left for a two-week trip through Europe and northern Africa. Seeing the joy and excitement of the couples who wed, the men said they realized what import there is in having a marriage ceremony.

"In an emotional way, not in an intellectual way," explained Rymer. "It opened my eyes to what the meaning of that was. You don't know what you are missing until someone offers it to you and then takes it away."

While in London, Frazer got down on his knee and proposed to Rymer.

"We really did start to get into it," he said.

The men wanted to make official — and public — the commitment they had made to each other nine years ago. Arriving back in the states on March 1, they immediately called to make an appointment. A week later the couple, who have been together for 10 and half years, finally got through to the clerk's office.

The day the gay nuptials came to a halt, city Treasurer Susan Leal, a good friend of the couple's who was to officiate at their wedding, phoned Rymer to break the news.

"Susan called me at my office at 2:45 p.m. I said 'Oh shit,'" said Frazer who absentmindedly hung up on Leal. "I was so convinced we would get through that eight days."

With Frazer up in Sonoma and Rymer in the city, the couple didn't even talk to one another until later that night, when Rymer arrived in Sonoma at 7:30 p.m. Leal called Rymer that night to tell him that NCLR was looking for couples to join the lawsuit. The men debated for four hours whether they should become plaintiffs in the case, concerned about the publicity and loss of privacy doing so would bring. They also had to decide if marriage was worth fighting for, said Rymer.

"I didn't need marriage to guarantee my commitment to Tim or him to me. But we needed as a community to ensure we have every right that every other person has," he said. "I love Tim whether or not we are married. But I believe this is really important for our community so that we are viewed in the same way as everybody else."

Living a quiet life in Sonoma, Frazer said, "I certainly am not an activist. I had to figure out how much I wanted to put myself out there. It was a difficult process. In light of it all, it became a pretty easy decision for us."

At midnight, they called NCLR to tell them their answer was "Yes." ▼

Disappointment

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said Rizzo.

They watched Newsom address the press and were able to talk to him briefly that day. The mayor gave Cooper a hug.

"I was really disappointed. I was really excited to get married and when they took it away that was worse than it was when we didn't have the opportunity to marry," said Rizzo.

Piercing pain

A lifelong dream to be wed, Baker said the pain was much more piercing when that chance — something he long thought would never come — slipped through his fingers.

"I never imagined as a gay man I would have the opportunity to marry my partner. When we were able to get a time it really was a dream come true for us. It was the fulfillment of something I've wanted my whole life," he said.

For all their desire to be married, the couple jokes they were probably the last gay people in the Bay Area to learn about the same-sex nuptials. It wasn't until Sunday, February 15 that they first saw the lines of soon-to-be newlyweds lining up outside City Hall.

At first they decided to wait and not rush to join the throngs, wondering if the courts would shut down the weddings that first week.

"We put it on the back burner for a while," said Adams. "Then two days before that Thursday in March Devin, on a whim, went online and pulled up a date for that day [March 11]. We decided yes, we are going to do it."

Tuesday, March 9 they bought their rings and invited family and friends to attend. They waited so long, said Baker, not due to a "lack of any resolve. We wanted to get married. We just kept hearing the courts would stop it."

Those first weeks, Baker said it "almost came off as a novelty. But then with each passing day we saw it's still going and still going, we began to think this might really stick."

Adams said, "To have the opportunity in our own state to be legally recognized as married was

the best thing we could possibly have imagined."

The couple, who became domestic partners in July 2002, will celebrate their fourth anniversary this September. Baker recalls discussing the marriage issue on the couple's very first date.

"I asked Art if he found the right person would he get married. He responded positively," said Baker. "I had never found, before Art, someone I would want to marry."

Talking about marriage on a first date could have sent Adams fleeing. Instead, he said he was nonplussed by the discussion.

"It was a legitimate question," he said. "Besides, marriage at that time didn't seem like it would be a reality."

A very traditional person when it comes to relationships, Baker said it has always been important for him to find someone who could make such a commitment.

"Intimacy is very important to me, as well as finding someone who could appreciate that," he said. "It seemed natural to bring it up on the first date."

By the time the men returned home that night from City Hall, NCLR's Kate Kendell had already tracked them down to ask them to join the lawsuit. They spent about 90 minutes discussing what their involvement would mean. With time running out to solidify the legal plans, Kendell gave the couple an hour to think about it.

"We talked amongst ourselves then called her back and said we are in," said Adams. "She said we could do as little or as much as possible. When she put it that way I really couldn't say no. I was in a fighting mood. I haven't had that feeling often in my life where I want to take on the government and win."

As they wait to see how the lawsuit progresses, the men have not discussed going to Massachusetts to marry. It would not seem appropriate, said Baker.

"California is my home. For me to be married in the Bay Area would really fulfill my dream. All my family and friends are here," he said.

Besides, said Adams, the two consider themselves married already, even if the state doesn't recognize their commitment.

"I do introduce him as my husband," said Adams.

"And I jokingly refer to Art as my wife," added Baker. "We tend to introduce each other as partners."

But the men want the piece of mind that comes with having their marriage legally recognized.

"We are standing on the edge a little bit, which I don't like," said Adams.

Long fight ahead

Club Q, a monthly party for women, brought Rizzo and Cooper together. The two had seen each other at a physical therapy clinic and then met a second time on the dance floor. Cooper invited Rizzo to join them for another dance party during Pride weekend in June 1989.

"We set a date together for the next night and have been together ever since," said Rizzo.

This past January they registered as domestic partners.

"When we became domestic partners, there was no party. It was just a legality," said Rizzo. "It is not equal. It didn't feel like something to celebrate. Something about it felt compromising, like it was a token step."

"Going to City Hall felt different. Marriage is something to celebrate," said Cooper.

A member of Rizzo's board connected the couple with the ACLU. The evening of their canceled wedding, the couple returned home and went ahead with their already planned party.

"We watched us on the news all night," said Rizzo. "We went online and there were all these messages from the ACLU."

At 10:30 p.m. they called Kendell with NCLR to discuss the possibility of joining the lawsuit. The family sat down to think it over before saying yes.

"I didn't want to be part of the lawsuit. But we were the ones there who got turned down. It was almost like we were picked to do this," said Cooper.

Someday, they intend to return to City Hall to take up where they were forced to stop on March 11.

"I think justice will prevail. We will be back at City Hall," said Cooper. "I think it will be in our lifetime. But it is going to be a long road." ▼

Wedding dress

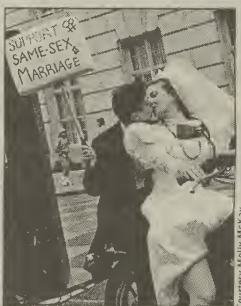
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is important, said supporter Robin Tyler with dontamend.com, because anti-equal rights forces are trying to push through amendments banning same-sex marriage in several states, diverting attention away from the failures of the Bush administration.

Kotulski said there is still room on the bus for interested riders. A broad range of groups is sponsoring the trip, including the Asian Pacific American Coalition for Equality, marriage equality groups in several states, and several LGBT religious organizations.

As for McKay, she'll be heading up a new "Get Engaged" campaign to elicit political support from governmental entities throughout the state in support of Leno's next marriage bill. Activists will receive points for resolutions or politicians' commitments in support of marriage equality that they obtain, with the scale based on degree of difficulty. A resolution passed by a conservative body, for example, will be worth 200 points. A commitment from a Democratic lawmaker will be 10 points; a Republican lawmaker's support will garner 20 points. It's yet another way to garner broad support from all areas of the state, a crucial part of MECA's job, since state polls continue to show most Californians oppose same-sex marriage.

Through it all, McKay and Kotulski plan to continue fighting for



Molly McKay's first public appearance in a wedding dress, Pride 1998.

the day when they will be legally wed in the state they call home. While they had a wedding ceremony several years ago and took part in the City Hall wedding rush, both know that for marriage to be binding here, the law must be changed. And they envision a nation where same-sex couples can get married anywhere, just like opposite-sex ones. ▼

For more information about MECA, including the upcoming bus trip to Washington, D.C., visit www.marriageequalityca.org or contact Kotulski at (510) 332-0974 or Davina@marriageequalityca.org. To contact McKay, call (415) 581-0005, ext. 4 or e-mail Molly@eqca.org.

Black voice

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"Have you ever been in a room with someone where it is all quiet or spend all day with someone and never say anything to them but felt like you had a whole conversation? That is how I feel with him," he said.

Instead of taking his husband on a honeymoon to Miami's South Beach and Key West the week of May 28 to June 6 as planned, Davis took LeJeune on what he termed

"our pilgrimage." As they wait for their case to be heard in San Francisco Superior Court later this summer, they said they doubt the city will win its case before the state Supreme Court.

"I don't think anyone expects the mayor to win his case," said Davis, though he doubts the ruling will impact the lower court's decision.

In the end, the two are confident they will be able to marry one day. And where will the ceremony be?

"Las Vegas" said the men. ▼

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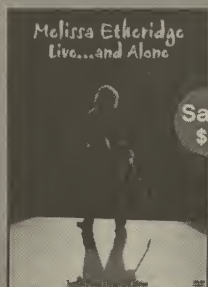
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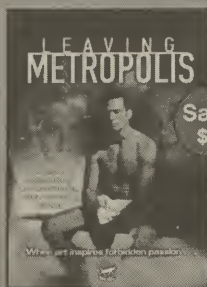
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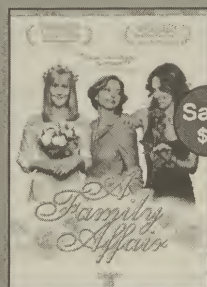
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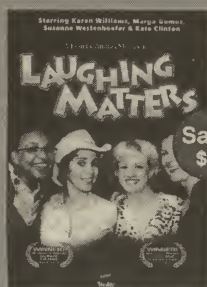
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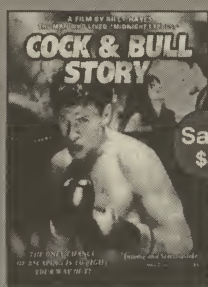
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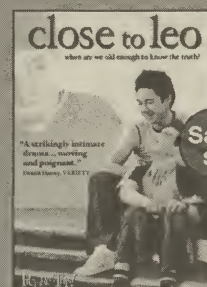
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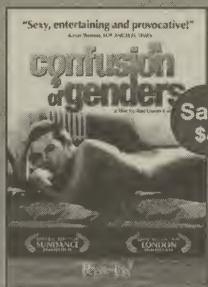
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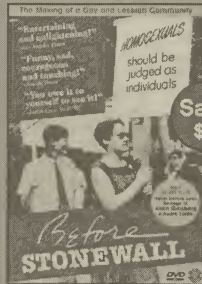
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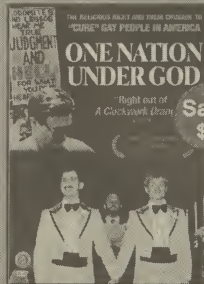
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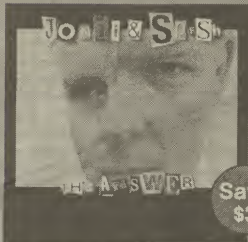
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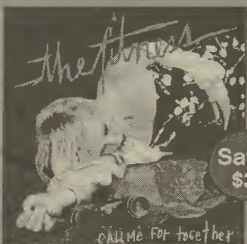
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First couple

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wasn't a commitment ceremony," said Zivnuka.

For Wang, both the fall and winter ceremonies felt like weddings. Though he gives more credence to the wedding with family and friends.

"I had similar feelings," he said. "What is important for me is neither of us had family attend on February 12. To me a wedding is a contract between two people but you have a congregation of family, friends, and a minister there to affirm and support you."

Zivnuka also sees their fall ceremony as being the more important of the two. In February inside City Hall "we were repeating similar vows we had made to each other in September," said Zivnuka, "but a marriage doesn't happen in a vacuum. It happens surrounded by friends and family."

Since that September ceremony, they have referred to each other as husbands, though Wang said he found himself calling John his boyfriend while on their honeymoon.

"It is a marriage to us," he said. "After February 12 it felt even more so."

Zivnuka said, "It always struck me strange hearing gay men call their partners husband. The word seemed so heterosexual, but the accurate term is husband."

Unlike with the fall ceremony, Wang's attitude toward fighting for equal marriage rights shifted significantly after the City Hall marriage.

"We were not activists. I felt other people are in that group. As we started moving forward, seeing what was happening across the country, you can't help but become an activist," he said.

Zivnuka felt his passions stirred during President Bush's State of the Union address in January, when he signaled his support for a Federal Marriage Amendment to restrict gays and lesbians from marrying.

"I felt this level of rage come out of me," he said. "It became a no-holds barred situation for me. To take away recognition of my family..."

When the call came asking them to wed at City Hall, Zivnuka found his outlet to take a more

public stand in the fight for marriage rights.

"Personally, I have always been an activist in the gay community on issues but not in a face the press kind of way," said Zivnuka.

With the threat of a lawsuit over the marriages looming, he reasoned, "They needed good plaintiffs and we make good plaintiffs."

Profound impact

Taking part in the ceremonies did more than make them activists. Being married profoundly impacted their relationship, they said. Now that they are spouses for life, there is a greater sense of longevity and seriousness to their partnership.

"There was a shift, it felt different. I am not just in a relationship that floats along," said Zivnuka, who noted the two dated seven years before deciding to marry. "Now all the people in my life fight for me to keep this promise I made to be faithful to him."

Understanding not everyone in the gay community supports the marriage fight, Wang said he does not believe marriage is only a heterosexual institution. Matrimony

can be embraced by the gay community, he said, because it has nothing to do with a union solely between a man and a woman.

"It's a private event between two individuals but it is also a societal institution. Who wouldn't want their family and friends to be there supporting them while they make a commitment to the most important person in their life?" asked Wang.

Zivnuka said his family repeatedly asked over the years when he would pop the question to Wang. And when the two did wed last fall, no one at the ceremony questioned it was a real marriage, they said.

But the couple noted others in their life reacted differently toward the two ceremonies. After their City Hall nuptials, Wang said, "my coworkers and acquaintances see it more as an actual, legitimate marriage."

"The people we work with have a different world view. They don't see a difference between religious marriage and civil marriage," said Zivnuka.

Sky not falling

As for how the state Supreme

Court justices will view his marriage to Wang, Zivnuka admits he doesn't hold out much hope they will uphold the legality of their union.

"I am a pretty pessimistic person. I prepare for the worst," he said. "I am hopeful but there is a strong possibility the state court will invalidate these marriages. It will make me sad but I will continue to fight on different fronts."

He said they entered into the marriage knowing there would be risks. And no court decision will ever change how they feel about the bond they share.

"It was a realistic risk but we were married before and we are still married as far as we are concerned," said Zivnuka.

Neither has any regret doing what they did inside Teng's office. And they said the time that has passed since then only serves to poke holes into the religious rights' fears that gay couples' marriages mark the end of civilization.

"I still feel what we did was an enormous step forward that was very personal for us," said Zivnuka.

"And the sky has not fallen. I am still waiting," added Wang. ▼

Exchange vows

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something powerful. "I almost exploded. My eyes were watering," said Tolver. "It started a new path for us."

They felt a part of the greater gay community for the first time in their lives. Except for being members of the Radical Faeries, the two felt little connection to the LGBT community.

"It was the first time we felt like we were in one of the gay cliques," said Johnson. "Being a couple, we kind of feel like we are sidelined sometimes from the rest of the gay community."

Their San Francisco marriage has also brought Johnson closer to his family. His mom and stepfather are born again Baptists. When he came out to them at 15, it was difficult for them to accept

his sexuality, he said. Whereas Tolver's mom, who raised him in a hippie commune, gave him away at their first wedding. "My family didn't accept it and they weren't invited," said Johnson.

He has stayed in touch with them over the years, having visited them in Georgia four years ago. Shortly after their second wedding this past February, he contacted his mother and began letting her into his life on a more personal level.

"I never talked to them about my happiness. That all changed after we got married in San Francisco," he said. "I sent my mom an e-mail and told her this was the happiest moment in my life and I needed to share it with you. No matter how I feel, you deserve to experience my happiness."

His mom had seen the San Francisco weddings on television and had thought her son probably was one of the couples exchanging



Reese Johnson and Tolver got married in City Hall earlier this year.

vows. "She sent back a positive response and said she was proud of

me," said Johnson. "The longevity of our relationship is one of the factors that brought them around. They have had to modify their beliefs about us."

In fact, Johnson's mother has said she will not vote to re-elect President Bush in November and plans to cast her vote for Senator John Kerry (D-Massachusetts), the presumptive Democratic nominee, due to Bush's endorsement of a Federal Marriage Amendment that would place a ban against gay marriage in the Constitution.

"She's been a Republican since she became a Baptist and took on the whole traditional family values," said Johnson. "But she also believes persecution is bad. It helped bring my mom over because she is asking, 'How can you persecute my son? He's a good person.'"

Tolver has also become more engaged in politics since his San Francisco nuptials. He joined Marriage Equality California and went online to do outreach and spread the word about the fight for marriage rights. He e-mailed celebrities, including Rosie O'Donnell, asking them to come out and support those couples getting married. While he never received a response from O'Donnell, she

did just that when she flew to San Francisco and married her partner, Kelli Carpenter, Thursday, February 26.

He did get an e-mail from the comedy duo Penn Jillette and Teller, who uses only one name. They said they couldn't come to town because they were doing a show but would send flowers to some random couples in line.

This summer Johnson and Tolver intend to apply for passports as a married couple. They already have used their marriage license to open a joint bank account. As they await a ruling from the Supreme Court, which is expected this summer and may invalidate the gay couples' marriages, the couple said whether their marriage is legally enforceable or not is not important to them. It is more about being responsible for one another that matters.

"We do expect it will fail. But it is important to make the first step because eventually there will be equality," said Tolver. "They can take away the word marriage but it doesn't change the nature of our relationship."

"No one expected when Gavin [Newsom] did this it would light a wildfire in other cities. It can't be stopped," said Johnson. ▼

Healing

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"It is better than traditional steam rooms because you are not exposed to other people's toxins," said Levine. "This drenches your body's cells with oxygen. Your skin is better, sex is better and you're full of energy after just half an hour."

The women are careful to explain to their clients that they are not medical doctors. They have spent a lifetime learning the various methods of healing they use, but neither attended medical school.

"We tell everyone that everything we use is natural. We work in conjunction with their doctors to provide complementary kinds of help," Levine said. "We don't make any medical claims for what we do. Spas have been around since ancient times. The Romans had them; it is not anything that is brand new."

The Chinese have used herbs for medicine for 5,000 years, noted Levine. Over the last 20 years or so practitioners of Chinese herbal medicine have made moves to become part of the more mainstream medical community.

"I do think there is a greater acceptance in the Bay Area. I think alternative healing modalities in general are gaining more and more acceptance because people are becoming more knowledge-

able about them and people are beginning to take more control of their own healthcare," said Truthsayer, who changed her name 14 years ago as part of her spiritual practice.

"I really liked my name and did not want to change it. It was a process that took two years for me to be willing to change my name. Now I am very happy with this name," said Truthsayer, who preferred not to reveal her birth name since she doesn't use it anymore.

Two decades ago she received training with the Bach School of Flower Essences in order to practice flower essence therapy. One of the originators of the technique was Edward Bach, a surgeon at the University College Hospital in London, who gave up traditional medicine in 1934 and began studying the medicinal effects of flowers.

"Flower essence healing is a form of homeopathy which uses only flower essences. There is no aroma," explained Truthsayer. "It's a remedy created out of flower essences tailored specifically for the client and the issues they are dealing with at that point. It can be taken orally, put into water or it can be rubbed on the skin."

It works energetically, she said, and helps patients transition through a job loss or the dissolution of a relationship.

"It is wonderful for trauma," she said. "It facilitates the emotional processing gently."

With her past life regression work, Truthsayer said it helps pinpoint problems or issues from one's previous lifetime which may be a factor for problems in their present life. It can manifest as a hurdle or obstacle or for when "a person is just plain stuck in a rut and nothing seems to be able to get them past it," she said.

"Some of it is just if we want to achieve goals and we need support to get there. All of the work I do is to help people to heal and grow from or grow beyond their emotional, stuck issues," she said. "Going back to a previous lifetime releases it fully and quickly."

It is not just her growing roster of clients who are seeking out her techniques. As with heterosexuals slowly accepting gay marriages, mainstream physicians are beginning to embrace alternative approaches to treating their patients. With hypnotherapy in particular, physicians are finding it useful in working with patients who are trying to stop smoking or lose weight.

"Physicians are more knowledgeable about hypnotherapy and less about the other modalities I work with," Truthsayer said. ▼

The Castro Healing Center and Spa is located at 2275 Market Street, between 15th and 16th streets. It is open Tuesday through Sunday and walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call 415-552-2111.

Kate Raphael

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that called for increased access to experimental AIDS medications and more medical care for those living with AIDS. The action delayed the first act of *Falstaff* by 20 minutes. No one was arrested, but many opera patrons were upset and there was mass confusion.

"I thought of that action and worked hard on it, and it came off really well - better than we hoped," Raphael said. "We got so much shit for that action, one gay man with AIDS said it was the worst thing that had ever happened to him, but a few years later, when the Opera House reopened after being rebuilt, there was a chronology of it in the *Chronicle* and our action was listed as having helped raise awareness of AIDS in the mainstream San Francisco community."

As for this weekend, Raphael said she will march in the parade with pride - and likely will be checking out the women. She is

single "and definitely looking," she said.

"My being chosen as a grand marshal means that the San Francisco queer community recognizes that queer liberation is one part of all human liberation," she said. "It's an honor to me, that I don't feel I really deserve, but I am proud to be a symbol of our community's rejection of the superpatriotism and destructive anti-Islamism reflected in our government's policies. My theme for the parade is 'No Pride in Occupation,' which is a slogan first used by the Israeli queer group Black Laundry, and I can't think of a more opportune time for us to use it."

Looking ahead

After the parade, Raphael said she is hopefully returning to Palestine for the next few months. Then, she plans to travel to Iraq to research the situation of women under the occupation and work with the International Occupation Watch Center.

"I plan to return home for good next January," she said. ▼

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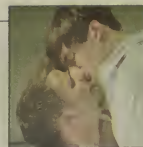
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Shorts stories
'Tweeners, boys & girls in short films at Frameline.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 26 • 24 June 2004

All pride, no prejudice

Alan Cumming puts the B in LGBT Pride

by Richard Dodds

Alan Cumming isn't looking for poster-boy status, but once again it has befallen him. The first time came when he played the emcee in the rough-stuff Broadway revival of *Cabaret*. "I became this sort of poster boy for deviance," Cumming said in a recent phone interview. "I did the first f--- [albeit in silhouette] on Broadway. That a lot of people knew what that meant was quite telling."

Now, six years after he won the Tony Award for his credibility as the sexually fluid emcee, the Scottish-born actor is a poster boy for pride and Pride. He is sharing celebrity grand marshal honors with Bruce Vilanch in the 2004 San Francisco Pride parade that will make its way up Market Street this Sunday.

"I was honored to be asked," Cumming said from Vancouver, where he is filming a musical remake of *Reefer Madness* for Showtime. "Especially to be asked by San Francisco, because when you think about being gay or being different in any way, San Francisco is the city of all cities where you really feel accepted."

Cumming had already heard a lot about the San Francisco Pride celebration before his invitation arrived. The source was Ian McKellan, a 1992 grand marshal, who co-starred in *X2: X-Men United* with Cumming. "Ian had a great time," Cumming said. "And I sort of cleared my diary to be able to do it."

The 39-year-old actor most identifies

with the B in LGBT, having been married to a woman and subsequently registered as a domestic partner with a man. He realizes that bisexuality can be a suspect orientation.

"Some people think you say you're bisexual because you don't want to say you're gay, and I think some people do that. A lot of people don't think [bisexuality] even exists, and I think they're stupid. With journalists, basically they want to know, 'Do you like it up the arse?' And if you just say to them, 'Yes, I like it up the arse,' then that makes them realize how stupid this whole who-are-you thing really is."

Cumming says sexuality for him isn't a swinging door. "It's been a year since I've been with a woman, and I've got a boyfriend now. In the last few days, for the movie I'm making, I've been dancing in this room with all these strippers, and I find them very attractive. I don't want to class myself with a word that will somehow diminish that attraction. I like the word 'queer' the best."

Great Scot

Growing up in Scotland, Cumming had "this androgynous thing" going on. A lonely child of unhappy parents, he began flourishing at the Royal Scottish Academy of Drama and Music. When he made his London stage debut, Cumming was married to actress Hillary Lyon. When he played Hamlet opposite her Ophelia in an acclaimed production of *Hamlet*, there was even talk of a new Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson.

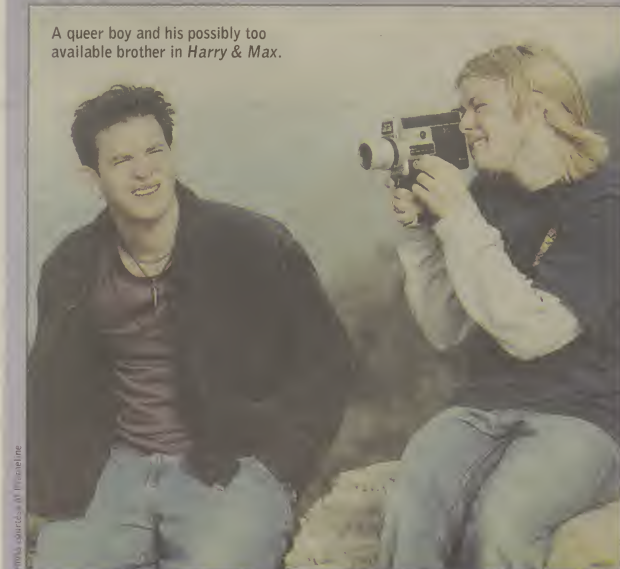
"I don't think it would have been appropriate to talk about [bisexuality] then," Hey, page 94 ▶



Celebrity grand marshal Alan Cumming at the GLAAD Media Awards in SF earlier this month.

Steven Underhill

A queer boy and his possibly too available brother in *Harry & Max*.



4000A, courtesy of Frameline

Beauty and the beastly

More highlights from Frameline 28

by David Lamble

These last four feverish days of the Frameline festival are loaded with not-to-be-missed treats. We may be getting married, but we're not going to be respectable anytime soon. Dive into the deep end of the pool as a pair of pop-star brothers shatter one of the few remaining taboos in American family life; a Russian father/son duo begins their time with us in bed and then goes to even darker places; a black college student struggles with a clueless white boyfriend and a homophobic backlash in his black studies program, only to find himself through a portal into the past opened by a mysterious stranger; a naive teenager has his heart broken and his mind changed by a dreamboat of a hustler who is both less and more than he appears; we go off the deep end with the adolescent fantasies of a gun-

toting gaggle of German terrorists; we take a fond look back at a lesbian film that shook up the entire indie film world; and then close with a lesbian fantasy spy-romp that falls somewhere between *Charley's Angels* and *Austin Powers*.

Harry & Max If there's anything more appealing and more threatening to the mental health of a young queer boy, it's growing up alongside an attractive and possibly too available older brother. Writer/director Christopher Münch has a wicked talent for crafting dialogue that can let neurotic strangers tell us their messiest secrets without making us feel bad about how we got to know them.

In 1992, Münch burst into the queer film firmament with *The Hours and the Times*, which imagines an aborted affair between Beatles manager Brian Epstein and John
page 88 ▶

THIRD OF THREE SECTIONS

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OUT THERE

Vintage Navy men make us feel mighty gay

Hello, sailors! Gay icons welcome at Pride

by Roberto Friedman

Welcome to all the gay tourists in town for the gay high holidays. It sure is great, to see the gay hordes around, painting the town red. Opening night of Frameline 28 seemed especially festive last Thursday night at the Castro Theatre, helped by the fact that yummy screen actors Jimi Mistry and Kyle MacLachlan and

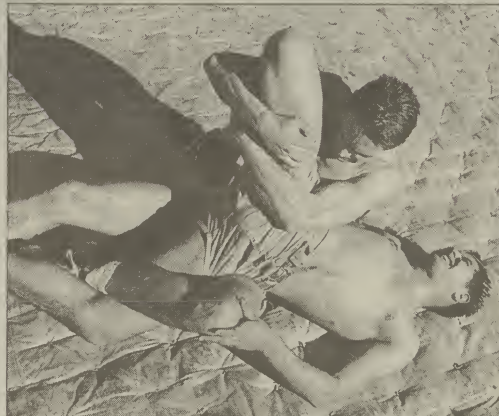


Kyle MacLachlan in Touch of Pink

Touch of Pink director Ian Iqbal Rashid were in the house. The afterparty that transpired in the Rotunda and Light Courts of City Hall was high-spirited, and the same-sex wedding cake was a nice touch.

Easy to like

Out There never seems to tire of looking at vintage photographs of the men and women who fought the good fight of World War II. Maybe it's our own era of false war fought on false pretenses, but WWII seems retroactively refreshing in its clarity of purpose, namely stopping Fascist powers from gaining Empire. Seems a lot better motivation than spreading



Capt. Steichen's photographic unit captured the daily lives of Navy men.

the gospel of "whiskey, sexy, democracy!"

So At Ease: Navy Men of World War II, a gorgeous new coffee-table book from Abrams (\$35), arrived just in time. Granted access to the National Archives, author Evan Bachner culled 150 photos taken by the US Naval Aviation Photographic Unit led by Captain Edward J. Steichen. The team of photographers recorded the daily lives of Navy men, and made the pictures available to newspapers and magazines for publicity purposes. You could say they were the candid camera of their day.

Plenty of pics depict sexy salts doing their manly duties like checking anchor and coating gun barrels with grease. But the photos we were most drawn to show the seamen in repose: taking catnaps with buddies, or sunbathing

quite out of their uniforms on the flight deck. These guys were used to close quarters, and they didn't seem to mind rubbing up against bare male flesh. In fact, they seemed to cultivate homoerotic opportunities.

They clearly loved to roughhouse and show off for the camera. Above is an especially lovely image from the book, given the caption, "Pre-flight cadets at St. Mary's College, Calif., undergo rigorous physical training. Cadet rises eagle split, December 1942; Moraga, California; photograph unattributed." We knew you'd like it.

Truce believers

One of Out There's most excellent readers, Professor of Library Science Mark C. Goniwecha at the Robert F. Kennedy Mem'l. Library, Univer-

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Rodney Gilfry as Faust, Chris Merritt as Mephistopheles in San Francisco Opera's production of *Doktor Faust*.

Faustian, but no bargain

SF Opera presents Busoni's 'Doktor Faust'

by Stephanie von Buchau

Faust, Wolfgang Goethe's long, philosophical, 19th-century play about an aging scholar who sells his soul to the Devil in exchange for youth, love and knowledge, has been set to music by a dozen composers, including Berlioz (*The Damnation of Faust*; 1846), Liszt (*A Faust Symphony*; 1854), Gounod (*Faust*; 1859) and Mahler (*Symphony no. 8*; 1907).

Ferruccio Busoni's version, now playing at the War Memorial in a new San Francisco Opera production, is not based on Goethe, however, but on the Faustian me-

dieval puppet plays which apparently fascinated the Italian-born but German-educated and inclined composer. That wouldn't necessarily hamper a work's dramatic arc, but two other facts conspire to make Busoni's *Doktor Faust* a difficult sell, though Jossi Wieler and Sergio Morabito, SFO's Dashing Duo Dramaturges, do their best to make us buy.

One, Busoni died in 1924, leaving the opera's final scene and apotheosis unfinished. First Philip Jarnach and then Anthony Beaumont "completed" the opera, using as much of Busoni's libretto and existing sketches as they could find. SFO chooses not to play any music not written by Busoni, a purist attitude one would like to salute, except that purism has never been an SFO trait, or they would perform Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* instead of Shostakovich's. Playing the truncated final scene "as is" ends the opera with a musical and dramatic clunk.

The second problem is that Busoni was not just writing an opera, but producing a theoretical treatise that was meant to encapsulate all music up to that time. He does a good job with the fascinating score, but despite all the special pleading in the program book, *Doktor Faust* has only one moment where the music literally dramatizes a situation. In that thrilling choral battle between Catholic and Protestant students in a Wittenberg tavern, ending with Martin Luther's "Ein feste Burg," Ian Robertson's chorus was so splendid that one couldn't help wishing the scene were twice as long.

Even when the solo singers had something substantial to sing, such as the Duchess of Parma's big aria, Wieler and Morabito sabotaged its operatic intent by having her sing much of it offstage and the rest while rolling around under Faust's filthy blue plaid blanket. Unfortunately, Faust was not under the blanket with her. For a pair of directors who turned Handel's *Alcina* into quasi-porn, Wieler and Morabito's *Doktor Faust* avoids sex as if it were the plague.

Stage coach

If you've gathered by now that I was underwhelmed, you're correct. I've liked the score since Kent Nagano and the Berkeley Symphony played it a few years ago. But any fool can hear that this undramatic piece needs staging help. That's presumably why one hires director-dramaturges in the first place. Yet, as someone said after

the final curtain, "How can an artistic director who presents something as human, sensual and touching as *Cunning Little Vixen* on Friday follow it four days later with something as cold, cerebral and lacking energy as this *Faust*?" Possibly because the opera itself is hopelessly cold and cerebral? Then why do it?

For the title part, Pamela Rosenberg hired Rodney Gilfry, one of the best-looking men in opera, but one blessed with only a modest voice, for a role that requires at least an heroic baritone. And the dramaturges didn't help by making Faust into a drunken, narcoleptic artist who, even when you could hear him, was still too wimpy to shave much less seduce half the women in history. I have never seen a leading character sleep so much on stage.

Fortunately, the Devil not only has the best tunes in this production, but was clearly the leading man. In his day as an heroic tenor, Chris Merritt may not have been a male model like Gilfry, but he had all the vocal and temperamental stuff. He still does. Shuffling on stage at first, looking like a seedy Uncle Ernie, Merritt's Mephistopheles, while shaving, changing his clothes, slicking back his hair and playing the organ, seemed to gain two inches in height and two dozen in authority. You had no trouble hearing him above maestro Donald Runnicles' frenzied pounding in the pit. Hey, I didn't mind; the instrumental music in this opera is far superior to the vocal, and don't think conductors who advocate the work don't know that.

The rest of the large cast (Hope Briggs as the Duchess, Friedemann Rohlig as Wagner, Jay Hunter Morris as the Duke and Johannes Martin Kranzle as Gretchen's vengeful brother) was stalwart, if not particularly appealing. The direction succeeded best with the cameo roles: three students from Krakow who later became chilling stockbroker types; evil spirits incarnated in a pizza deliveryman; a panting runner; and various military men and the fatuous, supercilious, badly-dressed socialites attending the Duke and Duchess' wedding.

The SFO Chorus may not have been listed correctly in the program, but as usual they stole the show. Wieler and Morabito are not uninteresting; they just didn't seem interested in helping us understand and/or enjoy this strange hybrid opera. ▼

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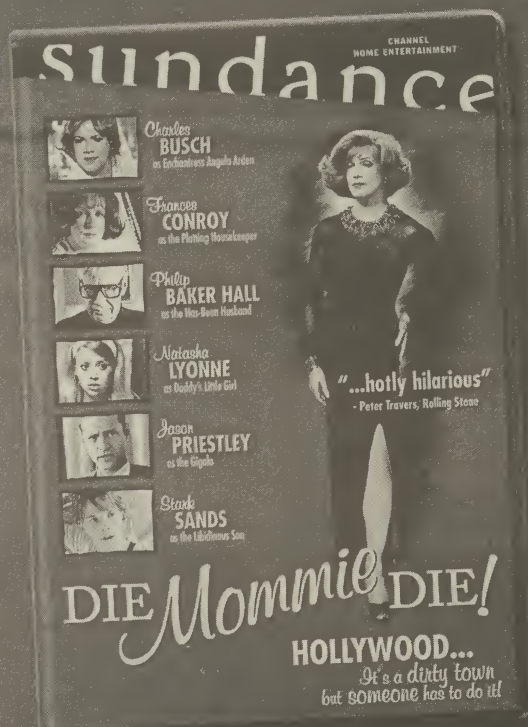
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The out-of-towners

American Theatre Critics Association visits Bay Area stages

by Richard Dodds

Sometimes it helps to look through someone else's eyes to get a clearer look at your own surroundings. I recently had help from about a hundred sets of outsiders' eyes to put the Bay Area theater scene into better focus.

The outsiders were the members of the American Theatre Critics Association, who recently returned to San Francisco for the first time in more than 20 years for their annual conference. Their

experiences in local theatergoing helped me prepare for a question asked during a panel discussion of the local theater critics: "From your vantage point, seeing as many shows from as many companies as you do, what would you say is the 'state of the art' in the Bay Area?"

It can be hard to grasp The Big Picture when you're mostly scurrying about inside its frame. Nor do the seven years that I've been writing about theater for the *BAR* feel long enough to compare local theater now with its various thens.

But thanks to the visit from the critics, I am prepared to say that the "state of the art" in Bay Area theater looks pretty damn good. And I am in a position to say with only a hint of recklessness that it's better than the state of the art in Houston, Atlanta, Miami, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Austin, Minneapolis, Dallas, Cleveland, Louisville, Denver, or Philadelphia.

These are among the cities that have hosted conferences of the American Theatre Critics Association or meetings of its Executive Committee, and, of course, the organizers all wanted to put their best theatrical foot forward. But often it's been a struggle to line up more than one or two choice offerings before worrying about embarrassment.

The Houston conference, for example, withered theatrically after only a couple of nights when a community theater version of *Pride and Prejudice* had to help fill out the schedule. In Atlanta, the city's one big theater, the Alliance, offered a choice of *Amadeus* or *Driving Miss Daisy*. And in Philadelphia, well, I can't remember what we saw in Philadelphia.

But for the organizers of ATCA - SF 2004, the main embarrassment came from having to decide what to leave out. There were six slots to fill for theatergoing as a group, and there was no struggle at all to sustain quality from start to finish. And quality with a flourish.

On the third night into our event here, a critic from Chicago leaned over to me and whispered, "This is heaven." The scene was *Beach Blanket Babylon*, and surprise guest star Frederica von Stade was getting down and dirty with a song from *Gypsy*. Take that, Philadelphia.

That afternoon we had seen Rita Moreno as Maria Callas in *Master Class* at Berkeley Rep, and even those disinterested in seeing Terrence McNally's play again were bowled over by Moreno's performance. There was also a world premiere at the Magic Theatre, a musical theater showcase by TheatreWorks in Mountain View, and the entertaining *Bad Dates* at San Jose Rep.

The final theatergoing slot was an option night, and choices offered to the group included Dave Eggers' *Sacramento!* by Campo Santo, *The Comedy of Errors* at Cal Shakes, *Southern Baptist Sissies* at New Conservatory, *Buddy* at the Post Street Theatre, and even *Teatro ZinZanni*. An eclectic, attractive list, and only scratching at the surface of available offerings.

The first show we saw together was ACT's *A Mother* starring Olympia Dukakis, and even the fact that it was not exactly embraced by the visiting critics is telling. In what other US city outside of, say, New York and Chicago, would the least-favorite offering be the world premiere of a new translation of a long-lost Gorky play starring an Oscar-winning actress and staged in one of the most beautiful theaters in the country?

In some of the other cities our group has visited, the ATCA conference has been treated as a major civic event: Welcoming banners are strung across streets, mayors makes speeches, and there are plenty of free lunches. In San



ATCA attended *A Mother*, *Master Class* and *Beach Blanket Babylon*.

Francisco, the welcome was warm but without the hint of desperation exhibited in cities with something to prove. There's no need to gussy up San Francisco.

Getting bumpy with Bette

The soul of Bette Davis will never get a rest as long as Matthew Martin is around. I wasn't lucky enough to have seen his take on the bete Bette in *Whatever Happened to B.B. Jane* at Theatre Rhino almost a decade ago, but I enjoyed seeing him reprise his Baby Jane in *Christmas with the Crawfords* at Rhino last year. Now Martin is taking on Bette

Davis again in *Awe About Eve*. Martin is starring as fading Broadway star Margo Channing in this send-up of the 1950 film *All About Eve* that he is co-directing with Rhino artistic director John Fisher. Maryssa Wanless is playing the Anne Baxter role of the backstabbing Eve Harrington, who drives Margo to warn her party guests, "Fasten your seat belts. It's



Matthew Martin as Bette Davis

going to be a bumpy night."

Awe About Eve, running through July 18, is the final show in Rhino's first Subterranean Season of plays presented in the basement Studio. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.



Broadway star Rebecca Luker

Kern county

Rebecca Luker is a Broadway queen of revivals, so it's appropriate that she's headlining a benefit for a theater company that relives in revivals.

The star of the recent Broadway productions of *Show Boat*, *The Music Man*, and *The Sound of Music* will be singing Jerome Kern at a fund-raising gala to benefit 42nd Street Moon.

All the *Things You Are: The Music of Jerome Kern* will have a single performance on June 28 at Herbst Theatre. In addition to Luker, the bill includes cabaret artists Andrea Marcovicci, Mark Coffin, Barbara Brussell, and Natalie Douglas, in addition to a team of 42nd Street Moon regulars.

Tickets are \$75, and if you double that, you gain admittance to a post-show reception with the performers. Call 392-4400 or go to cityboxoffice.com. ▼

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Hot rockin' gays

Enorchestra, Benfield, Waller and Sacket

by Mark Mardon

San Francisco's queer rock 'n' roll music scene is continuing to make a comeback, or rather coming-out, since in the old days gay rock 'n' rollers never were very comfortable being labeled. These days, if you're queer, it's clear. A new vibe has arisen.

Probably few outside our fair city have heard of **Enorchestra**, but if you were at the jam-packed Eagle Tavern last Thursday night, June 17, you'll never forget them. You'll also worship Brian Eno, whose spirit Enorchestra were channeling in a super-thrilling rock performance where they resurrected Eno's 1974 classic album *Taking Tiger Mountain* (by Strategy).

Celebrated Eagle Tavern bartender and resident Enorchestra guitar god **Doug Hilsinger** (drums, bass, guitar, pedal steel,

sitar guitar, glockenspiel, melodica, autoharp, percussion, background vox, treatments), beautiful vocalist **Caroleen Beatty** (both of the popular local band Waycross) and a crew of musical geniuses introduced their new Eno-inspired album to the world by belting out a start-to-finish faithful rendition of the entire work. With flawless playing, non-stop energy, and a keen ear for Eno's intentions, Enorchestra demonstrated why *Taking Tiger*, recorded and produced by Hilsinger at Saucefaucet Int'l (saucefaucet.com), is subtitled, "A Modern Revolutionary Peking Opera." *Taking Tiger* ranges through a dizzying array of sonic landscapes, pressing ahead with furious energy, but finding the poetry in every passage. These rock/pop compositions resonate even if you've never heard the original. Listening closely, you

know not just that you're reliving a genuine Eno experience (Eno himself says so himself in the album's liner notes!) but that Enorchestra have upped the master in terms of sheer bravado.

Beatty's vocal prowess and commitment to the material carried the band to exceptional heights. Perhaps the pinnacle came when Enorchestra delivered the pulsating drum, bass and rhythm-guitar-driven "Third Uncle." Hilsinger's guitar began to buzz in unknown directions; electronic wheezes, burps and bleeps punctuated guitar drones; and by the time Beatty sang, "Burn my fingers/ Burn my toes/ Burn my uncle/ Burn his books/ Burn his shoes," she and the band had completely mesmerized the crowd.

Enorchestra will perform *Taking Tiger Mountain* live on Friday, July 2, at the Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th St., SF, along with Tar-



Doug Hilsinger and Caroleen Beatty brought down the house at the Eagle.

entel. Call (415) 621-4455.

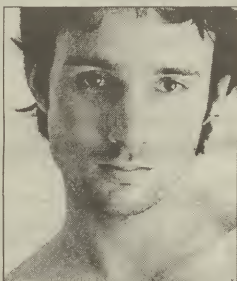
Grateful fans

Pride season in San Francisco wouldn't be complete without **Garrin Benfield** (garrin.com), a great artist just out with a live tour album, *August Live '03*, on his own ZackSongs Music label. This collection gathers gems from Benfield's gigs on the road with Boz Scaggs, an annual West Coast event. With Benfield on the road are bassist Joshua Zucker and drummer Russ

Gold, stellar musicians both. The work appeals especially to fans of Grateful

Dead-influenced, acoustic-guitar-driven, bluegrass-tinged rock, and the band has a huge queer following. With an emphasis on intricate guitar improvis, grounded by groovy melodies and Benfield's soothing voice, *August Live* reprises familiar songs from *Living a Dream*. Plus you get some of the newer songs previously heard only in Benfield's live shows, notably the driving "Children Go Where I Send Thee," a rockin' rendition of an old spiritual.

Look for Benfield to do a Fall release and a national tour centered around his third studio album, soon to appear. The Garrin Benfield Band will be playing at the Sunday, June 27 Pride Celebration, headlining on the performance stage at the Fairy Freedom Village in Civic Center Plaza at 2 p.m.



Holcombe Waller sings with spirit.

Plaintive cry

Holcombe Waller (aka Cactus Mike), who hails from Palo Alto and has been in San Francisco since 1998, is about to release his third album, *Troubled Times*, on which he sings in his gorgeous, hauntingly plaintive voice, and plays bass, piano, drum machine, Wurlitzer, percussion, and some guitar. Adding to the instrumentation is Ben Landsverk, who plays most of the guitar parts and all the banjo and dobro licks.

Troubled Times showcases a great young singer/songwriter, a shy, handsome young man with a beautiful spirit. Waller delights in creating different textures with a variety of instrumentations, so that when he sings in "You Love Me" that, "In love as in war, you must relieve what screwed you before," you get a different tone and temperament than in the title song, which urges you to "Come buck naked, dance for free, watch our monkey chop down the last cherry tree." Each uses vocals as deftly as any instrument, showing the marks of a classically trained musician. "Literally the End of the World" is a wail, a cry, a plea, a confession: "Put newspaper stacks on the curb as my offering, and shared the peace."

The album's one political song, "No Enemy," speaks directly to the nature of our troubled times. Subtitled "A song in the form of an open letter to National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice," it

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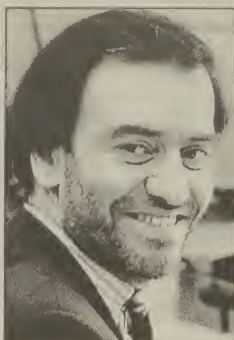
Russian optimism

by Stephanie von Buchau

In his excellent program note to Valery Gergiev's new recording of Shostakovich's Fifth and Ninth Symphonies with the Kirov Orchestra (Philips), Andrew Huth manages to avoid the usual Red-baiting psychodrama that currently infests Shostakovich scholarship. He gives us the facts, lays out the speculation occasioned by Solomon Volkov's *Testimony*, that not entirely reliable reminiscence attributed to the composer, and he briefly discusses the music.

So far, so good. What he doesn't do is suggest why these two symphonies (besides the fact that, at 73 minutes, they both fit comfortably on a single CD) should be such a natural pairing. Gergiev's great rival (and one-time boss), Yuri Temirkanov, pairs them as well in his St. Petersburg Philharmonic recording (RCA Victor Red Seal).

I hear them as a pair, even though they are nothing alike in form or content, because each followed a dark, pessimistic work.



Gergiev conducts Shostakovich.

Shostakovich was a neurasthenic human being for many political and social reasons, but also because blowing hot and cold was his natural temperament. When his opera *Lady Macbeth of the Mzensk District* was criticized by Stalin, and his Fourth Symphony, dark, painful and ending, like the opera, in a bleak, minor mode, was suppressed, Shostakovich

replied with the "optimistic" Fifth, a work that was an immediate international hit, though critics have been arguing ever since about whether the finale is triumphant or ironically empty.

Likewise, the Ninth Symphony followed the Eighth, one of Shostakovich's most powerful wartime works, desolate and all-but-terminally despairing over man's inhumanity. Shostakovich knew that the negativity of the Eighth would not be well-received, so he talked up his new work, a Ninth Symphony that would celebrate the coming victory of Russia over the Nazis.

This Ninth was going to be a big piece "about the greatness of the Russian people, about... liberating our native land from the enemy." It was supposed to contain soloists and chorus, like Beethoven's Ninth. But it didn't. In the end, it turned out to be light, witty, sardonic, a perfect piece of pure music that got the poor composer into trouble all over again. In Russia, it was found to be "inappropriate." In the West,

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Another side of Melissa Ferrick

Love and motion on singer/songwriter's latest album

by Gregg Shapiro

There are many sides to out singer/songwriter Melissa Ferrick, and on her latest album, *The Other Side* (Right On), she explores a few. Movement is a central theme on the disc, and you'll find her digging a hole in her backyard on "Beijing," floating and waiting for the tide on the title track, swimming and diving on "Bad Bad Girl," and generally continuing her ongoing quest for love that lasts. I recently spoke with Ferrick about love and movement.

Gregg Shapiro: In the title track, you sing about "floating out here waiting for the ocean to carry me to the other side." What do you think you'll find when you get there?

Melissa Ferrick: I hope I find a really gorgeous woman who I fall completely and madly in love with! I hope I find a sense of peace within myself, not always wondering if there's something better around the corner. Just a sense of being settled inside my skin. That's what I'm looking for.

Now that you've lived in LA and you're back in Massachusetts, is there any place else you'd consider relocating?

Chicago or New York are the only two other places in the US that I would live. I also really like

Toronto a lot, but I'm not Canadian. It's very difficult to get dual residency, but I've thought about Canada because I do really well up there with my music.

The album has some geography on it: "Beijing" and "Nebraska." You also had a song called "North Carolina" on *Freedom*.

And "Let's Fly," from *Listen Hard*, is about Chicago. "Take 55 to Lake Shore Drive." Of course, the fear is that I become the "road girl" songwriter!

You're the Rand McNally of music!

Yeah, exactly. I try not to do it too much. "Nebraska," for instance, that one came out of nowhere. I really liked that I was able to describe a feeling with a state. I had been watching the documentary on U2, when they made the *Joshua Tree* record with Daniel Lanois and Brian Eno, about making an album that actually reflected a terrain, which was the desert. I just felt so barren in love, wishing I was in love, and wishing that my heart was filled with that kind of feeling all the time. Nebraska, as a state, takes a long time to drive through, and of course there's the classic Bruce Springsteen album. And I was driving in Florida, and there was this road called Nebraska Avenue, and it seemed like everywhere I went I was seeing the word Nebraska! So I wrote that song.

I've been to Beijing, I toured China when I was 16 with the Youth Wind Ensemble. It's the first place that I fell in love with a woman, in China, my first girlfriend. I have a lot of great memories of kissing on the Great Wall of China, and having sex in hotel rooms over rice paddies. When I wrote "Beijing," I was listening to Dave Matthews' solo record *Some Devil*. There's a song on there that's got a really similar riff, but much slower. I love that song so much, so I tried to figure out how to play it. As I was trying to figure it out, I wrote "Beijing."

You've earned a reputation for writing songs about heartbreak.

Maybe I'm just such a die-hard romantic; it's disgusting, really. I

want, so much, to find the kind of love where I'm as in love as the other person is with me. I don't usually see that kind of even love — it always seems like one person is more in love with the other person. Especially in queer culture, there's such a lack of stability in longterm relationships. I'm sure it has something to do with the fact that we're not allowed to marry, so our culture has accepted moving from partner to the other, or the "lesbian U-Haul," or the gay male bathhouse scene. I go from a three-year relationship to another three-year relationship, and after the first year, I know that I shouldn't be there anymore. I'm looking to find that person I'm supposed to be with forever. Maybe it's stupid to hold out for



Melissa Ferrick is looking for love

that, maybe you are supposed to settle, maybe being really great friends is enough, but it's not enough for me. I want to feel as passionately about another person as I do about my music. I've been in love twice, and I know that I'm capable of being that invested emotionally. ▼

1,001 stories to tell

Supreme vocals resurface on CD

by Tim Pfaff

Some LPs still cast long shadows over the CD age. Long ago, at a New York record store, Peter G. Davis pointed at Régine Crespin's record of Berlioz's *Les nuits d'été* and Ravel's *Shéhérazade* and commanded me

to buy "one of the best vocal records ever made." I did. It was, and still is.

There have been many great recordings of both works since, but the best of them still share the stage with Crespin. When the latest *Shéhérazade*, Anne Sophie von Otter's, with Pierre Boulez and the Cleveland Orchestra (DG) came out, I stalked it before I bought. The credentials were all there. But the unquestionably great von Otter has been in a rough patch — and, for all of *Shéhérazade*'s fascination with cruelty ("the executioner and the innocent head"), the girl won't take rough trade.

Then, in Hong Kong last month, I bought my first copy of *Gramophone* in two years, which contained a feature about the recorded history of the piece, occasioned by the new CD. It said all the right things about my favorite recordings and then ranked von Otter's with them. I ran back to the Kowloon HMV store, plopped down my HK\$150, and headed back to my Discman, and bliss.

Shéhérazade needs many voices to tell her 1,001 stories, and if Crespin's was more like Kundry's and Janet Baker's more like Berlioz's *Cassandre*, von Otter's is more like *Mélisande*'s. It's as much whispered as proclaimed, but it's no less involving.

Von Otter traces the great arc that brings the first movement to its climax with firm, lustrous tone. So, what could have been written off as the sly husbanding of a voice in *extremis* instead emerges an artistic choice, and a canny one at that. The yearning, ache, ennui and overall mystery that pervade this captivating piece are all there in a fresh yet highly convincing mix. It gets better at every listening.

Boulez's handling of one of Ravel's greatest scores is even more revelatory. Once written off as the coldest of musical intellects, Boulez has become one of its supreme sensualists. (In fact, he always was one; back then, he had detractors to fight.) Gay composer and gay composer-conductor meet in ideal circumstances. Boulez's trademark transparency of sonority is surpassed only by his alertness to every telling detail of the score.

The whole CD is a delicious, judicious mix of song and purely orchestral works by Ravel and Debussy: the former's *Le tombeau de Couperin* and "Menuet antique," Debussy's *Dances*. If Alison Hagley can't quite come up to von Otter's exalted level in "Le jet d'eau" and the *Trois Ballades* de François Villon, she brings the same refinement to her close partnership with Boulez.

Pushing back

American gay countertenor (not a redundancy) David Daniels has worked hard to push back the boundaries of the repertoire for his voice type, with mostly commendable results. Someone who cared about either his career or his vocal health might have talked him out of his latest excursion, into *Les nuits d'été*.

Previously, it hasn't sounded like he's working hard singing "new" repertoire, but the Berlioz cycle is clearly all he can handle, and it's beyond what most listeners will be able to take.

Berlioz composed the six songs with different singers in mind, so any individual singer hoping to bring out all their aspects had better start with vocal amplitude. Crespin and Baker had it, in abundance, and what one took away from their accounts of the cycle was just that — riches, with nothing missing.

Accompanied by the Ensemble Orchestral de Paris (what's that? sounds suspiciously like a pick-up band) under John Nelson, Daniels sounds stretched to the limit throughout. He's too good a musician not to give refined, thoughtful interpretations of these famous songs. But the rapture and despair of these six distinctive love songs, and the many gradations of feeling between, remain beyond his vocal grasp.

Daniels sounds completely preoccupied with nailing all the notes and then doing the right things with them. True friends would also confide to Daniels that the tell-tale old-lady sound that has spelled the beginning of the end of many a major countertenor career is already rearing its ugly head. His principal rival, Andreas Scholl, had it early, and shed it. Daniels ought to beware. ▼

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Frameline 28

◀ Arts cover

Lennon just before the Fab Four spun into pop orbit. A dozen years later, Münch takes the subject of pop-star incest one silly step further, to involve a relationship between actual siblings. Harry and Max talk about the origins of their attraction: "God! Now I feel guilty for making you gay." "I already knew what I wanted." "When you were seven." "Yep."

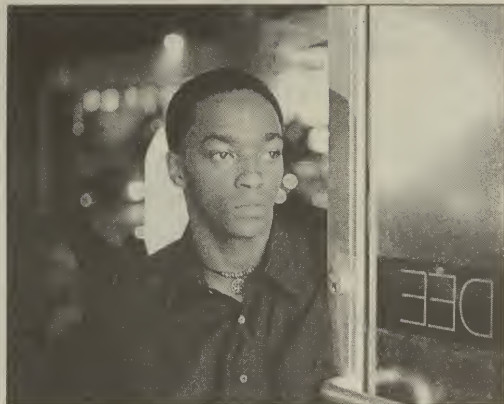
Cole Williams astonishes as Max, the younger brother who has to learn to be a "big brother" to his cynical sibling, Harry. A superficial resemblance to one of the Hansons doesn't hurt, but Williams' real talent is to breathe life into a truly original character who can really regard the act of sex as an extension of friendship and the basis for love.

Harry and Max is less about incest than it is a humane dissection of a pivotal if troubled family relationship. A nifty supporting cast including Rain Phoenix, Tom Gilroy, Michelle Phillips and Justin Zachary gives emotional weight to Max's choices. We feel that the small world we glimpse is part of a very real universe that we should all navigate with as much grace as Max does. (Castro, 6/25)

Father and Son Odd as it may appear to queer eyes, incest is not the issue between a father and son whose intense if inscrutable bond makes it impossible for us to discern who they are for several minutes into this fantastically imagined short feature. Director Alexander Sokurov, who amazed American audiences with his elaborately staged single-take tour of the Hermitage in *Russian Ark*, now gives us another splendid story filmed, as one critic put it, "in one breath."

Father (the imperiously handsome Andrei Shetinin) and Son (the charmingly ferocious Alexei Neimyshev) have lived together since the son was conceived when the father was a military cadet of 20. The father now wants the son to pick up military life where he himself was forced to abandon it. The son is reluctant to tear himself away from the one strong bond he has known and trusted. A telling piece of dialogue pops up twice: "A father who loves his son crucifies him. A son who loves his father sacrifices himself for him." Shot in hypnotically burnished sepia tones in Lisbon, Portugal, *Father and Son* demands to be absorbed for its beauty and audacious performances. (Roxie, 6/24)

Brother to Brother The major queer coup at Sundance was the Special Grand Jury Prize given to Rodney Evans for his drama exploring a young black gay college student's attempt to own his sexuality and stake a claim to his culture through a friendship with an



A young, black, gay student's sexuality figures in *Brother to Brother*.



Raspberry Reich is filmmaker Bruce La Bruce's newest porn extravaganza.

older writer rooted in the Harlem Renaissance. Evans' film contains a powerful scene with echoes of the writing of James Baldwin, in which the young man describes being kicked out of his house by his enraged father. "It's like when my dad caught me with this guy in my room. He was kicking the shit out of me. And he just kept screaming, 'Not in my house!'" (Herbst, 6/25)

Sugar This deliciously tawdry tale from the hard streets of Toronto concerns the misadventures of a lovely suburban lad (curly-haired cherub Andre Noble) who is given a joint, a skateboard and the advice to get himself properly laid as an 18th birthday present. In a few silly miles, Cliff navigates between different worlds. Based very loosely on short stories by Canadian film diva Bruce LaBruce, *Sugar* puts us kissing-close to Cliff and his idea of a dream date, pretty-boy hustler Butch (a breakthrough turn by TV's Brendan Fehr, who can go from seductive to psycho scary faster than you can eat your cornflakes). Cornflakes become the occasion for one of the screen's most electric mutual jack-off scenes. There's also an oddly impassioned kiss,

but in fact the lack of a physical bond is what keeps Cliff and Butch from becoming an item.

Director John Palmer and his co-writer Todd Klinck make some shrewd decisions on what not to show us. A bevy of trashy street queens are nicely treated in one grand moment, and then pretty much forgotten as the film gets down to the deadly push/pull on Cliff and Butch of their diametrically opposed views towards life. Cliff tugs at your heart (tears shed after a spanking and, more seriously, after date rape), and Butch will be remembered as the rent-boy who stared death in the face and didn't blink. (Castro, 6/24)

Raspberry Reich Famous or infamous for porn dramas like *Hustler White*, *Super 8 1/2* and *No Skin Off My Ass*, Toronto-based Bruce La Bruce's newest porn extravaganza should entertain if not fetch awards. LaBruce is as fascinated as Fassbinder was by the "revolutionary" antics of the Baader-Meinhof gang. What if this gang of terrorists suffered its own kind of sexual nervous breakdown after kidnapping the son of a rich industrialist? A hip music score, loads of shaking booty, and phallic gun imagery will make you happy you stayed up late. (Castro, 6/25)

Go Fish: 10th Anniversary This still very cool low-tech lesbian-date treat revolutionized the new queer cinema not so much on-screen as in its pioneering post-production financial deal that paved the way for a lot of neat films to get their funding. The centerpiece of the Rose Troche Frameline Award program. (Castro, 6/25)

D.E.B.S. Angela Robinson's follow-up to her Sundance-acclaimed short is as different from *Go Fish* as catfish is from sushi, but both will tide you over between more substantial meals. (Castro, 6/27, closing night) ▼



A 10th anniversary screening of *Go Fish* is part of a Rose Troche tribute.

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Gay pride on parade

Grove Press has just released *The Last Sunday in June*, a collection of plays by Jonathan Tolins including *If Memory Serves*, *The Twilight of the Golds*, and the title play (in paperback, \$13). *The Last Sunday in June* begins with a gay couple in their 30s, Michael and Tom, watching the Gay Pride parade from the window of their Christopher Street apartment. The following excerpts are reprinted courtesy of the publisher.

Tom: What am I missing?

Michael: Lesbians. A whole lot of lesbians.

Tom: What would you call that? A pack of lesbians?

Michael: I don't know. Maybe a loaf. A loaf of lesbians. ...

Tom (into phone): Hello? Hi,

Mom. Happy Gay Pride Day. Yeah, it's always the last Sunday in June. We're very proud. Aren't we, Mikey?

Michael: Practically bursting at the seams. ...

Tom (into phone): Yeah, the parade finishes down our street. You should see it, it's a sea of rainbow flags down there.

Michael: I am so over the rainbow.

Tom: It's inspiring. We're going to miss all this living in the sticks. No, there's no Gay Pride parade in Nyack. ... We'll wave to you and Dad on TV. Watch for us. I'm going as a nun, and Michael is dressed as Erin Brockovich.

Michael: Why do you do that to her?

Tom: I'm kidding, Mom. We won't be on TV. Relax. No, we're

going to Pottery Barn to buy lamps. See how well you raised me? I have no spirit left.

Michael (looking out the window): Thong. ...

Michael: I hate Gay Pride Day. It makes me feel ugly and out-of-step. And mean.

Tom: You're not ugly. You're my cutie. Hi, cutie. (He snuggles up against Michael.)

Michael: Don't. I'm trying to stay mad.

Tom: You should be on one of those floats out there. The cutie float.

Michael: My thong's at the cleaners. ▼



Hot rockin' gays

◀ page 84

comes off as a bubbly, high-energy anthem with the refrain: "There is no enemy coming. But you're making enemies, Condoleezza." The mind resists the seriousness of Waller's charge because the music seems too light to be carrying such an awful truth. *holcombewaller.com*

Sacket wrench

"I was going down to the dark points in my life in writing this album," says the darkly handsome

Sacha Sacket of his enchanting, lushly produced album *Shadowed* (Golden Sphinx Records, *Sacha-Sacket.com*). Sacket was in town last week to play a low-key gig for a sparse crowd at Club Deluxe, an old-time, laidback straight bar in the Upper Haight, where the bartender was talking at the top of his lungs and the patrons on stools kept their backs turned. Those of us paying attention, however, experienced a supremely talented artist. The dynamic LA-based singer/songwriter put his whole delicious body into his playing. He spoke of heartbreak, and you could

hear it in his songs, played with a seductiveness so deep I felt Sacket's razor-sharp lyrics at my throat. His splendid multi-octave voice, sweet and deadly, curved around me like vines seeking out my soul. Sacket's deep-blue eyes in a Mediterranean complexion pierced my defensive shield, and I succumbed to his lure. The man is simply one of the sexiest, sultriest singers ever to grace our city, and even if you have to go to a straight dive to hear him, it's worth the diversion.

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Ferry tales and Euro boyfriends

More film shorts to look out for in Frameline 28

by David Lamble

The last four days of the Frameline 28 film festival include intriguing short films from the three programs sampled below.

Euro Trip *Styx* In one of this year's best short dramas, two gorgeous German loverboys have a small problem: Mark (blond and butch Adolf Munstermann) is a sailor on a ferryboat on a route across Lake Constance, while at home waits Adrien (brooding, angelic brunet Torsten Schwjck).

"I'll buy us the house. You'll get your red curtains. And belong to me!" "And I go nuts!" "I'm going to marry you!"

Showing that the marriage bed can easily become the Procrustean bed, director Falk Ulbrich mixes Greek myth, Teutonic passion and a filmmaking palette that includes the most minutely observed details of ferryboat life, and a suffocatingly precise description of a drowning man's last moments. *Styx* should give any potential same-sex couple pause before rushing down to secure the ties that can both bind and choke the life out of a promising relationship. The fact that Mark is a Genet-like image of the sailor from Hell, and that Adrien is every sad poet's dream of a fickle youth worth locking up, only raises the stakes. Ulbrich's camera has a great grasp of faces young and old, restless and resigned. Mark yearns



Minutely observed details of ferry life and German lovers in *Styx*.

to be a ferry captain with a beautiful boy waiting at home, while Adrien sees his future mixing tracks at a trendy Berlin disco. Lovers kiss, blood is spilled, and haunting images linger.

My German Boyfriend Director Wayne Yung dissects with humor and pathos a young Chinese man's answer to the age-old problem of the mail-order bride with a few too many possible grooms. Yung has great fun at the expense of every stereotype about over-the-top Germans, pitted against clichés about Western Culture's relentless desire to emasculate Chinese men. Finding the perfect German boyfriend in Hamburg turns out to be about as hard as digging to China from there. (Cas-

tro, 6/27)

Boys by the Bay *Drowning River* Phoenix Hell has no fury like a pop fan's obsessive claims on the corpse of the beloved. Director Cam Archer and his Santa Cruz posse take liberties with the pretty-boy movie icon's drug overdose demise outside Johnny Depp's Viper Lounge. If your first name happens to be Joaquin or Rain, you may find this short film obnoxious, but if you're one of the millions of fans like me who were quite devastated the day this beauty died, this meditation on the absurdities of fame (with the comely Jasper Bell standing in for River) may prove a tonic for the soul, as well as an eye-candy pit-



A scene from Tim Eicher's *Waiting For the Ball To Drop*.

stop.

ALC2: From SF to LA w/Love Director Samuel Rodriguez captures the essence of why people do the annual AIDS bikeathon. *Muni to the Marriage* San Francisco's beloved cinema minimalist, the peripatetic Stuart Gaffney (will he ever do a feature?) gives his unique take on same-sex martial bliss. *Waiting for the Ball To Drop* For those eager for sexy fiction with a bite, Tim Eicher's short is a cautionary tale on how not to usher in the new year. (Herbst, 6/26)

Girls by the Bay *Rock in a Hard Place* 11-year-old Jesse (the remarkable Sasha Harrison) is picked on in class because she's a 'tween: not quite a traditional

tomboy, and not wanting to be a little girl battling the embarrassing signs of early puberty. Invited to dinner at the home of a classmate, the intuitive Jacob (Daniel Zinna gives some heavy lines a nice offhand delivery), Jesse learns that "normal" is very much a moveable feast. Director Sara St. Martin Lynne gets a lot of mileage from a tableful of the kind of colorful nonconformists you'd expect to meet in an Anne Tyler novel. Especially intriguing is Jacob's paint-sniffing older brother, Ken (Staniel Crass), who pushes Jesse to view her situation in a different light. (Herbst, 6/26) ▼

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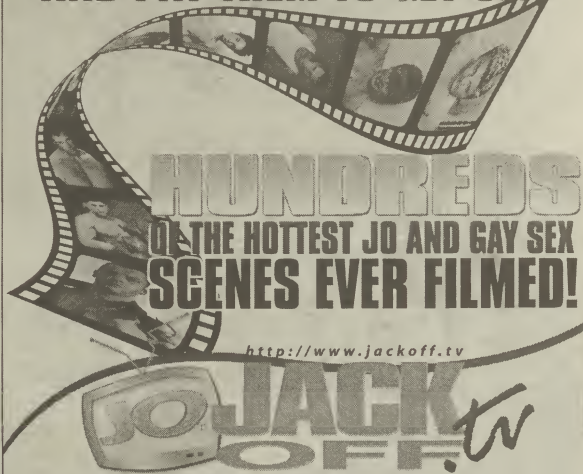
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Straight guy-on-guy bonanza

They're horny & hot, just don't call them gay

by John F. Karr

Hey, all you queers who hunger after straight boys. They're beginning to hunger for you.

At least, that's how it's going down at Defiant Productions, where gay sex isn't just for gay boys anymore. The small company's amateur movies steadily deliver str8 guys proudly blooming into their — and by that I mean our — sexuality before our very eyes.

What's the difference between Defiant guys and the mainstream industry's gay-for-pay? Truth and Adventure. Defiant films guarantee No Lie; these guys aren't pretending to be gay. They're neither feigning nor withholding emotion. Despite the fact that they are, of course, being paid, they're performing for the sense of adventure. Rebellion was never so rewarding or self-revealing as company founder Joe Serna makes it. While numerous amateur video companies ransack straight boys, few show Defiant's casual skill at encouraging homosexuality among performers for their benefit as well as ours. "My goal," Serna told me recently, "is to show people exploring their sexuality and enjoying themselves in a calm and safe environment."

Just don't call Serna's movies gay. He prefers to call the action guy-on-guy, which sidesteps labels. "Terminology makes a huge difference," he said. Similarly, he explained, when a performer decides he wants his first experience fucking a guy, "I can't ask why he



(Left to right:) Tye and Brett Peters in Defiant's *Who Would've Thought*.

chose a particular partner, it makes them think too much about it." So he says his movies are simply about str8 guys bonding. Spared the emotional attachment that signals gay to these guys, they realize that playing around with another guy is just sex. As they edge into gay sex —

oops, guy-on-guy sex — they find it's a good thing. And who doesn't wanna get in on a good thing? Watching these guys open up, you realize that these are the str8 voters who will end up passing gay rights laws.

The company name doesn't

mean Defiant is flipping the bird at viewers, like those old reliably straight performers who felt obligated to defend themselves by showing disdain for us. The name is Serna's way of announcing he's going against the grain of both mainstream and amateur porn. Besides, the horny sk8boys who make up the majority of Defiant's casts get off on the imagery. "It's a mind fuck for most of my guys," Serna said of the defiance of expected str8 boy norms that defines Defiant's players. "They love to tease and play with their viewers."

Room service

Only one of about 30 guys Serna approaches will eventually appear in a movie. If a new guy is still interested after an interview, there's that first movie, when Serna leaves them alone in a room with the camera running. Should a second film ensue, Serna's in the room. The third time, it's likely that there's another boy in the room. Jacking off with a buddy can start things percolating. Typical is Shane, a white-trashy construction worker who's made films for Serna since Defiant's inception. He was wary about opening up a private ritual, insisting, "I can do that if I don't see the other guy." Serna put a chair between them. A year later, coying up on a couch, Shane accepted head from a guy for the first time. Soon after, he licked the cock of groovy Brock. And in the next film, he sucked it. "I did it for the fans," Shane explained. As eager as most Defiant performers to please his audience, Shane's now eating cum, screwing and playin' around with the boys like it came naturally — as indeed, he found, it does.

Serna is canny about encouraging such discoveries, saying, "I feel less like a director than an instigator." He's a facilitator who provides a level of comfort that's largely absent in most other amateur films, and then lets the guys see how far they can take themselves. He shoots without assistants, to keep the models relaxed, and resists getting involved in their scenes. Meaning he doesn't distract the guys with small talk while they're trying to get into it.

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Self portraits

Orson Welles movies at the Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

Here but for the grace of God, goes God," a wag said of Orson Welles (1915-85), before he made his first picture. His ego, talent, and self-indulgence were legendary. The Castro Theatre is running a retrospective of many of his remarkable films June 28-July 9, and they're worth seeing, or seeing again.

Success with the Mercury Theatre in New York brought Welles to Hollywood. His *War of the Worlds* ('38) radio broadcast, which convinced thousands of listeners that Martians had invaded Earth, made him famous. Impressed, RKO offered him \$100,000 to produce, write, direct, and star in a movie of his choice, without studio interference—an unprecedented deal for a film novice. He considered Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, but chose screenwriter Herman Mankiewicz's (older brother of *All About Eve*'s Joseph Mankiewicz) script for *Citizen Kane* ('41), loosely based on the life of publisher William Randolph Hearst. Welles played Kane from youth to

grotesque old man, casting Mercury actors Joseph Cotten, Agnes Moorehead, Ray Collins, Everett Sloane in key roles. *Kane* was attacked by the Hearst press, then the most powerful in America, and, failed financially, but soon was considered a masterpiece and an eerie look at what Welles himself would become. It won the Best Screenplay Oscar, with Welles listed as co-author, although Mankiewicz was the sole writer. Greg Toland's stunning cinematography and Bernard Herrmann's score were hugely influential. It's certainly more entertaining than most other "great" movies. It's teamed with a semi-documentary, *F for Fake* ('74), about charlatans like Clifford Irving, art forger Elmyr de Hory, and Welles. (6/28-29)

Welles directed and narrated *The Magnificent Ambersons* ('42), from Booth Tarkington's novel about the decline of a wealthy American family at the turn of the century. After seeing the grim ending, nervous RKO executives changed it, but until then, it's brilliant, with Moorehead's extraordinary Aunt Fanny, Cotten, Collins, Dolores Costello, handsome Tim

Holt, and a young Anne Baxter. (6/30-7/2)

Welles directed and played *The Stranger* ('46), an ex-Nazi who has become an esteemed college professor married to lovely Loretta Young. His fascination with antique clocks tips off Edward G. Robinson that he's not what he seems. The film is beautifully photographed and suspenseful, but Welles the actor has too much gravitas. Charlton Heston insisted Welles star in and direct the astonishing *Touch of Evil* ('58). Already obese, he is grotesquely padded as a corrupt American sheriff on the Tijuana border. Heston, at his most energetic, plays a Mexican narcotics official newly married to Janet Leigh. It's a murder mystery like no other. Wearing a black wig, Marlene Dietrich is the tarot-reading madam of a bordello. She eyes Welles, warning, "You're a mess, honey. Lay off them candy bars." An unbilled Mercedes McCaibridge is a butch hoodlum who leads a gang-bang of Leigh. Cotten and Zsa Zsa Gabor make cameo appearances. (7/3-4)

Total isolation

Welles directed and appears in *The Trial* ('62), a riveting version of Franz Kafka's novel about the horrors of totalitarianism in a society without civil rights. Hand some Anthony Perkins is the unjustly accused man who cannot find help. The isolation from



Welles, '40s love goddess Rita Hayworth in *The Lady from Shanghai*.

community that hallmarks modern dictatorships is brilliantly conveyed. The gay Perkins is amazing; with Jeanne Moreau, Elsa Martinelli, and Romy Schneider. Meyer Levin's novel about the infamous Leopold and Loeb murder case in Chicago in the '20s became *Compulsion* ('59), directed by Richard Fleischer. Dean Stockwell and Bradford Dillman play the killers, and their homoerotic relationship is surprisingly clear. Welles is the Clarence Darrow-like defense attorney. He's mesmerizing while chewing the scenery. (7/5)

Welles directed and is *Mr. Arkadin* ('55), a mysterious man who hires a drifter (Robert Arden) to investigate his own past. It's *Kane* in reverse, absurd and compelling at once. With the bisexual Michael Redgrave, father of Vanessa, Lynn, and Colin. Rita Hayworth the '40s love goddess is *The Lady from Shanghai* ('48), di-

rected by a misogynistic Welles as their marriage collapsed. He cut her fabled coppery tresses and bleached them blonde, making her a hard femme fatale. He's her victim and the reptilian Everett Sloane her husband. Sensational San Francisco locations mask the story's implausibilities. The finale, set in the Fun House Hall of Mirrors at Playland by the Beach, is spectacular. (7/6)

Carol Reed helmed Cotten and Welles in the gripping version of Graham Greene's *The Third Man* ('49), set in a damp, corrupt post-World War II Vienna. Welles is the mysterious Harry Lime whom Cotten must locate. He doesn't show up until halfway through the movie, but it seems like he's in every frame. Trevor Howard and Alida Valli co-star. The famed zither music by Anton Karas adds immeasurably to the ambience. Regularly rated as among the greatest films ever made. (7/7-9) ▼

Digital pride

Four gay films out on DVD

by David Nahmod

Following in reverse chronological order, four gay films to make you beam with gay pride, out on DVD.

Pride Divide (1997) Water Bear Films, \$29.95

What's gay pride without a little controversy? This talking heads documentary, newly released to DVD, raised a few eyebrows when Frameline screened it at the LGBT Film Festival in 1997. *Pride Divide* deals with the cultural and political differences between gay men and lesbians, and pulls no punches. Many of the women interviewed rightfully take gay men to task for excluding women's issues from the gay rights agenda, and for not being there for women, as women were for men, when AIDS and other illnesses devastated the women's community.

But there are moments of mutual admiration and respect as well. Men admit to learning about compassion from women, while women say they learned how to have fun from men. Soul-searching and growth is always good for a community, and *Pride Divide* inspires exactly that. Shot on digital video, presented full-screen. Chapter search is the only extra that is offered.

Jeffrey (1995) MGM \$19.95

Jeffrey features Steven Weber in the title role, a cute, idealistic gay guy searching for true love in New York City, and dealing with the harsh realities of dating in the age of AIDS.

Based on the acclaimed play by Paul Rudnick, *Jeffrey* takes a serious theme and injects it with both humor and sensitivity. We laugh at Jeffrey's clumsy, half-hearted fears of sex and dating. But we under-

stand his fears. We sympathize with the beautiful young man (Michael T. Weiss) who loves him, and with his friends, a positive/negative couple (Patrick Stewart, Bryan Batt) whose stylish flippancy masks their own fears.

Clever celebrity cameos abound: Sigourney Weaver as a self-help guru, Robert Klein as a mock game-show host, and Nathan Lane as a priest, all shine in their humorous roles.

The film is briefly stolen by Oscar winner Olympia Dukakis, who meets Jeffrey at the 1994 Pride Parade (shot in part at the actual event). Dukakis is hilarious as an Italian woman from Brooklyn who introduces Jeffrey to her child, a pre-op trans. "I'm proud of my pre-op transsexual lesbian son," she says with good-natured cheerfulness that's quite infectious. *Jeffrey* is a delightful film that will make you laugh, cry, and think.

MGM presents *Jeffrey* letterboxed. Chapter search and subtitle options are offered, along with the film's theatrical trailer.

Torch Song Trilogy (1988) New Line Home Video \$19.95

Harvey Fierstein's masterpiece, based on his Tony-winning Broadway plays, is a great film to watch during Pride Month. It's the beautiful story about 10 years in the life of Arnold (Harvey), a drag queen who demands and gets respect from those around him.

The story follows Arnold's stormy relationship with his mother (Anne Bancroft), who wants to accept him but cannot; his first love, who leaves him for a woman; and his soulmate (Matthew Broderick), who suffers a gay-bashing death. The story begins in 1971, and uses Arnold's growth as a person to illustrate the

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OUT & ABOUT

Fri 25

Tranny March @ Dolores Park

Trannies, friends, allies and admirers will gather and march to demonstrate that they are a significant and growing portion of the GLBTQI community and to encourage more trans people to come out. Dress up, show up, bring signs, and be what happens! Please enhance, translate and pass this on to any groups, lists, or individuals who might be interested. Trannies on Trykes lead the Tranny March! Meet at 5pm, march at 7pm: Dolores Park, Dolores & 19th Street

Avenue D @ Guilty, The Stud

Dirty girls from NYC, Avenue D — the famed electro-rap duo behind the club hit "Do I Look Like A Slut?" — perform live. DJs Adrian, Mysterious D, Mr. Anthony and Suppositor! Spelling also spin an ass-shaking mix of bastard pop, electro, hip hop, rock. Free CD giveaways, midnight pizza party from Extreme at Mission High. 21+ w/d. 399 9th St. (at Harrison). Info: www.guiltysf.com

Pride Concert:

All You Need is Love

@ Mission High School
Tony Award winner and Celebrity Grand Marshal Alan Cummings joins The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (Dr. Kathleen McGuire, Artistic Director), the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of SF (Stephanie Smith, Artistic Director), and the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band (Jadine Louie, Artistic Director) for a rousing 26th Annual Pride Concert, "All You Need is Love." Celebrate the music of the Beatles and pay tribute to unsung gay hero Brian Epstein, the young music lover from Liverpool who discovered the Fab Four. \$10-\$40. 8pm, Murphy Auditorium at Mission High School. Tix: SFGMC Box Office (4053 18th St.); 415-865-3650; www.sfgmc.org

Naked Fame @ The Center

The SF LGBT Community Center presents an advance screening of *Naked Fame*, a documentary by Chris Long, following former adult film star Colton Ford as he makes the transition from adult film star to dance music sensation. Reception with the actors and directors will precede the screening. A fundraiser for the LGBT Center. \$10. 8pm, 1800 Market St. Tix/info: 415-865-5555.

The End @ NCTC

Final shows! New Conservatory Theatre Center (NCTC) presents *The End*, with lyrics by Tony Award-winning George Furth and music by Doug Katsaros. Spend an evening with threeassy, brassy, classy women (singer/actors) Len McClean, China Crawford, and Deirdre Green in a musical revue exploring the horrifying end of relationships. \$20. Thru June 26, Fri. & Sat. 8pm. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market St.). Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Dirty Blonde @ NCTC

Final shows! NCTC presents the romantic comedy *Dirty Blonde* by Claudia Shear, directed by Doyle Ott. Conceived by Shear and James Lapine. It's a touching comedy about Jo and Charlie, two New York loners-turned-lovers who learn to accept themselves through their mutual obsession with the voluptuous film and stage icon Mae West. \$18-\$28. Thru June 26, 8pm.

Daniel Cartier's Revival

@ The Odeon Bar
The Odeon Bar presents Daniel Cartier live on tour in support of his new album *Revival*. Growing up in a small conservative New Hampshire town, Cartier was "this artsy little gay kid who just kind of hid in my room absorbing any music I could get my hands on." He played in various local goth and punkabilly bands and did solo gigs at cof-



Veronica Klaus joins a host of other major talents on the Main Stage at the Pride Celebration in Civic Center. See Sunday.

teenhouses. His first CD was recorded live in NYC on the Canal Street subway platform. He was signed by Elton John to Elton's Rocket Records (PolyGram) and came out with Avenue A. In 2002 Cartier formed Endurance Music with Sarah Symons and the fruit of this labor is *Revival*, with Cartier on vocals, guitar, drum loops, percussion, table top dancing, mid air jumping, Marty Beller on drums & loops; Toshio Manna on bass & sound fx. 10pm, The Odeon Bar, 3223 Mission St. (at Valencia — yes, they do cross). Info: 415-550-6994; danielcartier.com

Awe About Eve

@ Theatre Rhinoceros

Theatre Rhinoceros presents *Awe About Eve*, starring Matthew Martin, directed by John Fisher and Matthew Martin. Also starring Floriana Alessandria, Shira Burstein, David Bicha, Jeffrey Harigraives, Libby O'Connell, Maryssa Wanless, and Matt Weimer. Fasten your seat belts! It's the story of Margo, an aging Broadway star who suffers from the hidden menace of a self-effacing but secretly ruthless and ambitious young actress. \$15/\$20. 8pm Thru-Sat, 3pm Sun, thru July 18. Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. Tix: 415-861-5079; www.theatrhino.org

Orpheus Descending

@ Actors Theatre of SF

Actors Theatre of San Francisco presents *Orpheus Descending*, directed by Jean Shelton & Kenneth Vandenberg, one of Tennessee Williams' most complicated and richly symbolic plays. It's the story of Lady, a passionate woman trapped in a loveless marriage in the Deep South, whose spirit is reigned by Val, a wild drifter. \$40 Opening Night Gala Benefit; \$25 General; \$15 Students and Seniors; \$10-\$25 sliding Thursdays. 8pm (7pm Sun). June 25-August 28. Actors Theatre, 533 Sutter (btwn Powell & Mason). Tix: 415-296-9179; www.ticketweb.com. Info: www.actors-theatre.org

Pride Shabbat @

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
Chill with LGBT Queer Jews from around the world and around the corner. "We display our 'Shabbat' finest for this queer Jewish spin for San Francisco Pride. The service includes Hallel, the traditional prayer adapted for this 'pilgrimage' event in the gay community. Our progressive liturgy will soothe your soul and our music will stir your spirit." 7:30 pm. If you're still hungry for something more, stop in for the Oneq (social hour) at 9pm. 200 Dolores St. (at 16th St.). Info: 415-861-6932; shaarzahav.org

Pride A'Palooza!

@ 12 Galaxies

Vixen Creations Presents: In Bed w/Fairy Butch's *Pride A'Palooza!* A campy, erotic cabaret & dance party for gals & trannies of all colors & pals. A raft of fabulous FB strippers. Dancing & cruising all night long. Meet a babe in the "Mingle & Tingle Game." \$10-\$15 sliding. 9pm doors; 10pm show. 2565 Mission St. (at 22nd). Info: Fairy Butch at 415-FEZ-8000; 12 Galaxies, 415-970-9777. Tix: www.fairybutch.com

Black Pride

@ African American Art & Culture Complex

California Black Prides presents "SFBGLT People in Pride Celebration," June 25-27. Tonight: "4th Friday Party," the kick-off Celebration for SF Black Pride weekend. Come get some free party puns and dance the night away. Cost: \$15 single \$20 couples. Time: 10pm-2am. ALSO: Screening of *The Closet* (1 hr 54 m.). Five unique men (Emory, Zachary, Eugene, Nicholas and Isaiiah) who share an acquaintance with Jeffrey Freeman, but not with one another, are invited by him to be a part of his wedding. \$10. 8pm & 10pm. Also screening on

June 26 (8 & 10pm) and 27 (12 noon, 2, 4, 6, & 8pm). Both events held at the African American Art & Culture Complex, 762 Fulton St.

Scott Capurro

@ Swedish American Hall

Café Du Nord presents *Upstairs At The Swedish American Hall: An Evening with Scott Capurro and Friends*, hosted by the acclaimed comedian and featuring: Sarah Clark (Co-host of the *Sarah and No-Name Morning Show* on Alice Radio); Marilyn Pittman; Joan Jet Black and singer/songwriter Garrin Benfield. \$25 for the Scott Capurro show ONLY; \$35 for the Scott Capurro show and the show downstairs later with Jackie Beat. 7pm doors; 8pm show. 2174 Market St. (above Café Du Nord). Info: cafedunord.com

Jackie Beat @ Café Du Nord

Drag superstar Jackie Beat entertains you with her razor-sharp comedy and hysterical song parodies. Jackie not only warps hits by Britney Spears, Madonna, Mary J. Blige, Christina Aguilera, Cher and many others, but she flawlessly sings her twisted new versions live — hitting every last note. Plus: beats by DJ Big Red with MonkeyBoy and Swingkid. \$15. 9pm. 21+ w/d. 2170 Market St. Info: 415-861-5016; cafedunord.com

QComedy SoMa Tour

@ Off Market Studio

Nick Leonard, Dana Cory, Lisa Geduldig and friends in a fast paced showcase of the best from San Francisco's long running queer comedy series. Admission: \$10. Two shows on Friday, June 25, at 8pm & 9:15pm. Also see the hilarious "Iraq-a-palooza" the same night in the theatre across the hall, also at 8 and 9:15pm, also \$10, or see both shows for only \$15! At Off Market Studio, 965 Mission (@5th). More info at: www.cafefarts.com and www.Qcomedy.com

Rattlesnake in a Moving

Car @ Space 743

Opening reception: "Illuminating the Vision with Light and Sound," a showing of *Rattlesnake in a Moving Car: Life with HIV*, an installation by Rob Anderson, a project of the SF Public Health Foundation with sponsorship from the SF Arts Commission. Says Anderson: "Living with HIV is like driving with a rattlesnake in the car. The challenge is to keep it in the passenger seat where it won't cause harm." Through charcoal portraiture, audio interviews, and an abstract metal sculpture, Anderson presents the stories of 24 men and women — all longtime HIV survivors — who have been successfully keeping the "rattlesnake" at bay. Reception on Friday, June 25, 5-7pm. Show runs June 22-July 31. Gallery hours: Wed-Sat.



Scott Capurro headlines a stellar Pride comedy event at the Swedish American Hall. See Friday.

12-5pm. Space 743, 743 Harrison St. (btwn 3rd/4th). Info: www.rattlesnakeinamovingcar.org

Va Va Voom Room

@ Empire Plush Room

The Va Va Voom Room presents a special Gay Pride Weekend edition of "The Greatest Burlesque on Earth!" As always, Mistress of Ceremonies Miss Astrid leads a cavalcade of gorgeous beauties, comedians, singers, magicians and specialty acts in a vaudeville era show now renewed and refreshed through a 21st century lens. Tonight and Sat., June 26, celebrate Pride with the return of NY's celebrated, outrageous, gay, 6' 5" (and taller in heels) Scotty the Blue Bunny! \$20 adv; \$25 door. 11pm. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix/info: 415-885-2800 www.vavavoomroom.com

Fag Fridays @ The EndUp

Big Booty Productions presents *Fag Fridays*, the famed dance club, a queer San Francisco tradition. Live Pride performance by Xavier Gold with Guest DJ Tedd Patterson (NYC) and resident DJs Rolo, David Harness, Neon Leon and Pete Avila. 10pm until after hours. 401 Sixth St. (at Harrison). Info: www.theendup.com

Sat 26

25th Annual Pride Run

@ Golden Gate Park

Join the San Francisco Front Runners starting at 9am for the 25th Annual Pride Run, beginning and ending at the South Polo Fields in Golden Gate Park. Info: pride-run.sffrontrunners.org

Out 4 Justice — SF Pride

Celebration @ Civic Center

This year's 34th anniversary San Francisco Pride Celebration kicks off Saturday on the MAIN STAGE from noon-1pm with *Stand Against Hate*, followed by the *Partner Ceremony* (1-1:30); Sean Wiggins (1:45-2:05; singer/songwriter, a blend of Janis Joplin & Melissa Etheridge; www.seanwiggins.com); Gina Livingston (2:10-2:25; funky R&B grooves, pop sensibility; ginalivingston.com); Cheer SF (2:30-2:40; acrobatics to make you stand up proud; cheer.org); Blue Buddha (2:45-3:10; an emerging new artist who blends soul, rock and jazz into groovy/soulful sounds to give you life and love); headliner Jacqui Naylor (3:10-3:55; renowned for her sophisticated jazz, with original compositions and signature interpretations of gems from the American popular songbook. At SF Pride she'll be genre hopping from jazz to blues to rock and back, with songs from *Shelter* and her upcoming two-disc release *Live East West/Birdland and Yoshi's*; www.jacquinaylor.com); Dangerous Martini (4:05 - 4:35); Bettina Devlin (4:40-5:05; bettinadevlin.com); and Lonnie Tucker (5:15 - 6pm). Also: rows upon rows of booths offering all kinds of things: sex toys, t-shirts, arts and crafts, non-profit services, public information, food and drink. Plus: a Leather Alley, a Deaf and Hard of Hearing gathering space, and 12 fabulous stages. Celebration Area open Noon-6pm. Info: www.sfpide.org

SF Dyke March: Uprooting

Racism @ Dolores Park

The 2004 San Francisco Dyke March, A march for all dykes and all women (men are asked to stand and support the women from the sidelines!) "Uprooting Racism" is about dykes coming together to uproot the racism that keeps people separated, silenced and fighting one another. "Instead we choose to devote our energies to dismantling the white supremacist capitalist patriarchy that keeps our minds, bodies, children, friends, sisters and families enslaved." Rally and Stage Show in Dolores Park 3pm; March leaves Dolores Park at 7pm. Info: www.dykemarch.com/SFO

Dyke March 'Viewing Area'

For the fourth consecutive year, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (CSZ) and GLOE (Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders) will be hosting a special viewing area for the annual Dyke March. This area is especially intended for senior and disabled dykes. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and preparing refreshments. 5pm. Info: Melanie Kushnir at 415-861-6932 ext. 305; email mekushnir@shaarzahav.org

SF Dyke March Exhibit @

Hormel Center, Main Library

Jane Cleland and Cathy Cade present their expansive exhibition, *The San Francisco Dyke March: Photos by Jane Cleland and Cathy Cade*. From politics and poetry in Dolores Park to the march through the Mission and dancing in the Castro, experience the joy and power of the Dyke March, 1993-2003, through the photographs of two of the City's leading activist photographers. Free. Exhibition runs through July 15. Main Library, Third Floor, James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).



Raunchy NYC electro-rap duo Avenue D perform live at Guilty at The Stud. See Friday.

Pansy Division & friends

@ Café Du Nord

Café Du Nord salutes SF Pride Weekend 2004 with quadruple the fun! Four queer bands play for your Pride thrills. Featuring Pansy Division (Total Entertainment!, Alternative Tentacles Records), the world's first all-queer rock band, plus Paradise Island (with Jenny of Erase Errata), The Ex-Boyfriends, and best of all, the Ga-Ga's (pronounced Gay-Gays), the all male Go-Go's tribute band featuring none other than Chris Freeman! Two chances in one night to see Chris be a ham. A true alternative to the godawful non-stop house music soundtrack that is the Castro. \$10. 9pm. 21+ w/d. 21+ w/d. Info: www.pansydivision.com

Night Marsh @ Jon Sims

Center for the Arts

Opening night: Bay Area premiere: Dandelion Dance Theater, in association with Jon Sims Center for the Arts and the National Queer Arts Festival 2004, presents *Night Marsh*, the culmination of Eric Kupers' three-year *Undressed Project*, revealing a vibrant and diverse ecosystem of naked bodies. The work challenges cultural notions about body image, beauty and death. Performed with a cast of 15 dancers diverse in size, shape, color, age, ability/disability and sexual orientation. Contains full nudity. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Fridays and Saturdays, June 25-July 10. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. Tix/info: 415-554-0402

Fencesitters Ball

@ Rickshaw Stop

The 9th Annual Fencesitters Ball, a bi dance party, with music by DJs Laird, Kitty and Kit. \$10 per person or Threesome Special: \$2 off for each of the three! 18+. 9pm-2am. Rickshaw Stop, 155 Fell St. (at Van Ness). Info: 415-820-3907; bipridesf@yahoo.com

Colossus

@ Giftcenter Pavilion

Gus presents *Colossus*, a special SF Pride Weekend dance party featuring world-renowned DJs Tony Moran (NYC) and Paulo (LA), with a live show by Flava. Really big, really glamorous, really memorable. Exclusive Gay Fuel VIP Room (opulent club space featuring complimentary gay fuel, vitamin water, touchspa massage, Colossus tank tops, fruit feast, Gloss photo shoot). \$40 adv; \$50 door; \$65 VIP. Three-party passes available (good for Colossus; Temple; Sanctuary).

Lesbian/Gay Contra Dance

@ Women's Bldg.

Join the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Contra Dance for its Pride dance! Contra maestro Chris Ricciotti comes from Boston to call this new dance series for lesbians, gay men and friends of all persuasions and descriptions. Contra is an exuberant, friendly New England barnance that blends English, Celtic and Quebecois traditions. Zesty Celtic-style music by live band The Reppercussions. No partner, special attire or experience required. \$10 (for what you can). At The Women's Building, 3543 18th Street (between Guerrero & Valencia). Doors open at 7:20 pm. Dance till 10:30pm. Info: Robert at 415/292-7857 or sfcontra@hotmail.com

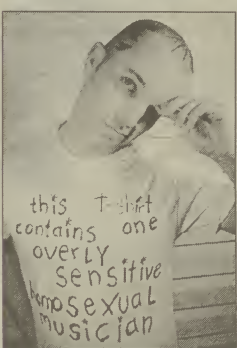
SF Hiking Club @ Pt. Reyes

Join other outdoor lovers for a Pt. Reyes Sunset Hike. Climb to the top of Mt. Wittenberg and then hike down to the ocean for a fantastic view of Drake's Bay during sunset. Bring a flashlight for the walk back. It's a moderate 12-mile hike with a 1,800-ft. elevation gain. Meet 3pm under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 415-487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Same Sex Open House

@ Metronome Ballroom

Metronome Dance Same Sex Open House, showcasing Salsa, Country Western 2-Step and Argentine Tango with Metronome's Same Sex Group Class Instructors. Have fun and meet new people! Get introduced to three different styles of dance in just a couple hours. Workshop perfect for new Gay/Lesbian students who would like to sample what the Metronome offers. Free. 1-3pm. Metronome Ballroom, 1830 17th Street (at DeHaro St.). Info: www.metronomeballroom.com



Daniel Cartier revives his artsy queer music career at The Odeon Bar. See Friday.



Kiki and Herb bring their melodramatic musical comedy mania to Great American Music Hall. See Wednesday.

Sun 27

Out 4 Justice — SF Pride Parade & Celebration @ Civic Center

The parade starts at Market and Beale at 10:30am and proceeds west on Market Street to Market and Eighth St. The general public watches the parade from the sidewalks lining both sides of Market Street, from Beale to Eighth. The Civic Center Celebration kicks off Pride Sunday on the MAIN STAGE with Ari Gold (12:05-12:15pm; R&B/Pop Superstar recently released *Space Under Sun*; featured in *The Advocate*, *OJ*, *Billboard*, *XX* and many other pubs; www.arigold.com); Mika (12:15-12:25; powerful vocalist); JenRO (12:25-12:35; Lesbian rapper with her dancers "The Frisco Femmes; www.jenromusic.com); Busta-Groove (12:40-12:55; hot party band playing hits from the '70's, '80s, '90s and today; www.busta-groove.com); The WoodyZ (1:00-1:15; SF's pre-eminent hi-camp, big band, drag review with songs from the '50s and '60s; www.thewoodyz.com); Gwen Smith (1:15-1:20; columnist, activist, focusing on anti-transgender violence; www.gwenismith.com); Veronica Klaus (1:20-1:35; SF's premiere transgender R&B/soul diva who recently put on the hit fundraiser "Songs of the Scarlet Temple"); The Crew Project and the Industry Dancers (1:35-1:40); Heros of Same-Sex Marriage (1:40-1:50; Mayor Gavin Newsom and key elected officials, legislators, attorneys and activists who are fighting for our full relationship equality); Pride Awards (1:50-2:10; with Pride Band, Mayor Gavin Newsom, Grand Marshals); Cheer SF (2:10-2:20); The Dynamites (2:20-2:25; from *Hairspray* the Musical); Legato (2:30 - 2:50; modern R&B/hip-hop beats with soulful vocals and catchy hooks; www.legatolounge.com); Simon Stinger (2:55-3:15); The Men of Falcon & Chi Chi LaRue (3:15-3:25; Falcon Studios Directress Chi Chi LaRue joined on stage by Falcon film stars Jason Adonis, Lane Fuller, Gus Mattox, Brad Patton, Josh Weston and Bobby Williams); April (3:25-3:35); Deep Dickollective (3:35-3:45; Oakland-based oxymoronic "out" black queer MC's the world says do not exist; www.deepdickollective.com); Unauthorized Rolling Stones (3:50-4:10; tribute band; www.theursons.com); Tret Fure (4:15 - 4:35; just out with the album *My Shoes*; [www.tretfure.com\); Caroline Lund \(4:35-4:50\); Cast members from *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* \(4:50-4:55; selections from this hilarious hit musical, now playing at the Marines Memorial Theatre\); headliner Chaka Khan \(4:55-5:25; not just a diva: she is an icon. Her discography includes 24 albums which feature such songs as "I Feel For You" and "I'm Every Woman"; \[www.chakakhan.com\]\(http://www.chakakhan.com\)\); Falcon Dancers \(5:25-5:30\); Lipstick Conspiracy \(5:35-5:50; fresh transgendered rock just out with debut CD *Dor! Tell A Soul*; \[www.lipstickconspiracy.com\]\(http://www.lipstickconspiracy.com\)\); Pride Idol \(5:55-6:05\); Allowyn Price \(6:05-6:20\); Cuir Bleu \(6:30-6:45; Oakland-based Electronic Rock with a fetish flair; \[www.cuirbleu.com\]\(http://www.cuirbleu.com\)\); Voluntary \\$3 donation requested at gate. Info: \[www.sfpide.org\]\(http://www.sfpide.org\)](http://www.tretfure.com)

Juanita MORE!'s

VOYAGE @ Soluna

Opium productions and Juanita MORE! Present VOYAGE, the gayest Gay Pride party! Celebrate at the only dance club within the pride gates! Arrive looking chic and pushing your couture. Leave your baggage behind and take the Voyage to Soluna! Tour de force performances by Faunique, Putanesca & Suppositori Spelling! Music by DJ Derek, Juanita MORE!, and guests; visuals by B3N. Come catch a glimpse of the latest More Boy! Plus lots of other cuties. \$7 before 5pm; \$10 after. 3-10pm. 21+ w/I.D. Soluna, 272 Mc Allister St. (at Larkin, Civic Center

Plaza). Info: 415-621-2200; www.solunaf.com; www.juanitamore.com

Queer Hip Hop Pride @ Mezzanine

Mezzanine and Lady Beyond Productions present the Pride Festival After Party, Queer Hip Hop Pride. DJs Switch, Calalo and Noni X spin all of the tightest hip hop all night. Free b4 9pm; \$5 after. 8pm-2am. 444 Jessie St. (at Mint, btwn Market & Mission, 5th & 6th). 21+ w/I.D. Info: 415-820-9669; www.mezzanine.com

Sophie B. Hawkins & Essence @ Cafe Du Nord

Cafe Du Nord Salutes SF Pride Weekend 2004 with Sophie B. Hawkins & Essence. \$15. 8pm. 21+ w/I.D. Standing

Sundance Saloon @ Ramada Plaza Hotel Ballroom

Sundance Saloon presents an After-Pride Country-Western Dance in the gorgeous ballroom of the Ramada Plaza Hotel, adjacent to the Civic Center festivities. Country-western dance lessons 6-7:30pm; two-step-pin' and line dancin' 7:30-11pm. Entertainment, complimentary hors d'oeuvres buffet, no-host bar. \$8. Info: 415-820-1403; www.sundancesaloon.org

Fresh @ Ruby Skye

DJ Kimberly S. (White Party) spins for Fresh, as the Pride crowd gets their groove on at this popular monthly dance party set in the stylish and historic theatrical landmark turned Union Square hot-spot. \$15 b4 7pm, \$20 after. 6pm-midnight. 21+ w/I.D. 420 Mason St. (at Geary). Info: www.freshsf.com

Mon 28

Lit at the Canvas

"Lit at the Canvas," in which local writers tell their tales, and you drink coffee. Come by for the fun "If you are proud and you know it!" Featuring Larry-Bob (funny observations on life in general and gay life in SF in particular); Tina Butcher (sexy, sassy story teller, with the best fisting tale ever); and Jennifer Fox Bennett (amazing American Indian poet who will make you proud). Free. 7pm. Canvas Gallery, 9th Ave & Lincoln. Info: www.litcat.com

Q-Sangha Mindful

Monday @ MCC

Q-Sangha presents "Mindful Monday," with Music, Meditation, Teachings, Sharing, and more. Tonight: live presentation of the Dharma by Ji-Sing followed by either a Blessing Ceremony or Membership Ceremony. Q-Sangha is a ministry of the Metropolitan Community Church of SF in the engaged "Unified Buddhist" tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh (which blends the best insights of the Theravada, Zen and Pure Land schools of Buddhism in a contemporary way). All are welcome. 7pm. Info: 415-865-2750; www.mccsf.org

Tue 29

Dodie Bellamy's Pink Steam @ Modern Times Bookstore

Dodie Bellamy reads from and signs copies of her new collection, *Pink Steam*. Pink steam rises from the vats of melting goo in the Vincent Price 3-D horror classic, *House of Wax*. Railroad buffs know "pink steam" as the first blast from a newly christened steam engine, which appears pink as it spews out rust. And now *Pink Steam*, the book, reveals the intimate secrets of Dodie Bellamy's life — sex, shopping, voyeurism, writing. Free. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. Info: 415-282-9246; www.mtbs.com

Wed 30

Kiki and Herb @ Great American Music Hall

An Evening With Kiki and Herb — aka writer-performer Justin Bond and pianist Kenny Mellman. They have refined their act into a slashing funny, psychically unsettling entertainment-part cabaret, part rock and roll, part Victorian melodrama-to which the category of camp does not apply. The outrageously dissipated Kiki DuRene—a sixty-something lounge singer who tours ad nauseam with a doleful accompanist named Herb, is a beacon of insanity in a world that may finally be coming. \$18 gen'l; \$37.95 dinner. 8pm doors; 9pm show. 859 O'Farrell St. Tix: 415-478-2277; virtuous.com and tickets.com

Femisphere

@ Off-Market Theater

"Femisphere: Songs in the Key of Angst," an evening of drag performance starring Trauma Flintstone and her guest, Tom Orr. Mrs. Flintstone, nee Anderthal, is a composer, musical director, vocalist, female impersonator and veteran of almost 50 productions over the past decade. She has appeared in *Christmas with the Crawfords*, *When Pigs Fly*, *Queer*, *The Andrews Sisters' Hollywood Canteen*, *Jungle Red*, *White Trash Compactor*, and the rock musical *Club Inferno*. Orr is a lyricist, performer, playwright, best known for his music/comedy revue *Dirty Little Show Tunes*. \$10. 10pm. Off-Market Theater, 965 Mission St. Info: 415-896-6477 (no reservations); email femisphere@hotmail.com

Queer Vision @ AFSC

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) hosts Queer Vision's monthly meeting. The group are progressive queer activists committed to social, racial, economic and environmental justice. This month Michael Lion from People's Budget will talk on the status of the City budget emphasizing its effect on low-income San Franciscans. 7pm. AFSC, 65 Ninth St. (1 blk. from Civic Center BART).

Thu 1

Crawford Barton's Queer Eye @ Int'l Museum of GLBT History

On exhibit: "Queer Eye: The Photographs of Crawford Barton," at the International Museum of GLBT History, a project of the GLBT Historical Society. The "Reading Room Gallery" will feature "Queer Eye: The Photographs of Crawford Barton," highlighting the artist's collection vividly documenting GLBT life in SF in the 1970s and '80s. Also: "Saint Harvey: The Life and Afterlife of a Modern Gay Martyr," an altar to and showcase of Harvey Milk's life. \$4 General Admission; \$2 Students/Seniors. Exhibit open Tue-Sat., 1-5pm. 657 Mission St., #300. Info: 415-777-5455; www.glbthistory.org

The Photographer's Eye @ SoMarts

National Queer Arts Festival Exhibit: "The Photographer's Eye," an show documenting SF's historic gay marriages, with submissions of the weddings and/or post-wedding festivities from pro's and amateurs alike. Part of *Spouses for Life — A Wedding Album*. Free. SoMarts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. @ 8th St. Info: www.queerculturalcenter.org

The Newlyweds

@ The Center

National Queer Arts Festival Exhibit: "The Newlyweds," presented by The Queer Cultural Center (Qcc) and Bay Area Community of Women (BACW) as part of *Spouses for Life — A Wedding Album*. For the first time ever in this country's history, beginning February 12, 2004, nearly 4,000 same-gender couples were legally married. The Newlyweds features the couples' own stories, documented through photographs and narratives. Free. The SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St.

Three Dollar Bill Cafe

@ The Center

Now open: Three Dollar Bill Cafe at the SF LGBT Community Center. The long-awaited cafe provides a welcoming space where friends can socialize and enjoy a fine cup of coffee. Three Dollar Bill Cafe is privately owned and operated by Vince Constabileo and Peter Howells, who were recently married in SF. Ground floor, The Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: www.threedollarbill.com

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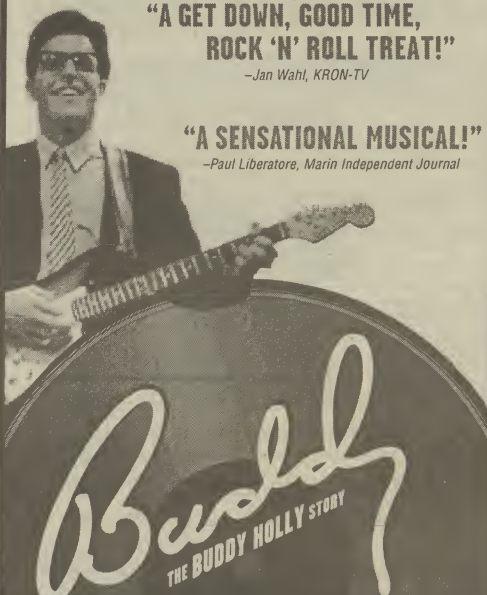
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Why are we proud?

Leather people stand up for all

by Mister Marcus

As we embark on yet another Pride Parade Weekend in San Francisco, and other gay communities around the nation are doing likewise, it's time to reflect on why we, the leather community in particular, are celebrating Pride.

I am sure a thousand and one reasons could be put forth by groups and individuals as to why they need to feel their pride this weekend. Especially this coming Sunday, when thousands will march up Market Street to the cheers of hundreds of thousands of people — not all gay, mind you — and feel good about yourself and your lifestyle. They bandy about the words "chosen lifestyle", but did you really ever "choose" to be gay? Despite some die-hards who insist they can change your orientation, we never really had the chance to say Yes or No to our sexual appetite.

So think about these things that make you proud to be gay with all its sub-cultures and especially being a gay/lesbian leather person.

First of all, despite my almost 35 years of reporting on all the successes in San Francisco and other communities that the leather nation amasses, there are still those who would ignore and denigrate our existence. Prejudice does not just exist in racial boundaries, or sexual boundaries, but prejudice against leather still exists. I don't know what else we have to do to get a "seat at the table".

At the International Mr. Leather 2004 contest in Chicago last month, a spark, a glow, a beam of light was shed on the 3,000 leather folk in the audience when Matt Foreman, the Executive Director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force was introduced. The statement he made that caused the audience to rise to their feet for prolonged applause is repeated here:



Leather

"I am here to acknowledge other realities that are rarely spoken about, including the enormous debt owed by the larger lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community to leather people — for all the money you have raised to fight HIV and to support local organizations. For being out front and proud — when so many others have been and still are cowering in closets — pushing the envelope and making it so much easier for those of us who work on the inside to press forward for equal rights."

"I want to state the plain truth that leather people have disproportionately borne the scourges of anti-gay discrimination and violence and as well as the burden of

caring for people with AIDS. And, most important is to say that far too many times, so many in the organized "mainstream" gay community have not only failed to recognize our debt to you, but have denied it, looked away and tried to distance themselves from you. That is wrong and unconscionable. All I can say is how profoundly sorry I am for that."

At last! So for your efforts in all righteous endeavors the leather community should be proud of the recognition. I suspect there's an alliance brewing here, and we look forward to the implementation of this alliance.

The reasons are clear

We are proud of all the leather service organizations, the leather title holders including men and

next page ►



Matt Foreman, left, Exec. Director of the NGLTF, with Judy Guerin of the WoodHull Foundation, chat with Mary Elizabeth Boyd at the IML 2004 Contest in Chicago. Matt made an outreach to the leather community in his stirring speech at the contest.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, June 24

Troy Anicete hosts Pre-Pride Party with drink specials, prizes, giveaways and a preview of the 2005 SoMa Bare Chest Calendar at the Powerhouse from 2100-closing.

Friday, June 25

Phoenix Uniform Club's Uniform & Leather Ball in the Green Room of the War Memorial Bldg., featuring Gail Wilson & City Swing. Tickets are \$60 advance at Mister S, Stompers, Image Leathers and Rock Hard.

Saturday, June 26

Annual Pride Brunch at Ramada Plaza Hotel honoring the Pride Parade Marshals. Champagne reception at 1100, gourmet brunch at 1200. Entertainment by Dixieland Dykes+3. General admission \$75. For more info, email to: EmpSachet@aol.com.

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual location. Doors open from 2000 to 2200. \$15 donation. For info: 673-0452 or www.the15association.org.

In San Diego, a benefit for Ms. World Leather contest at the Hole, 2000 to 2200 produced by Daddy JJ with new and used leather auction.

Sunday, June 27

Quite possibly the biggest Pride Parade in the

U.S.A., with a huge leather contingent. Be proud. Wear your leathers!

Weekend, July 2-5

Los Angeles Boys of Leather "Stars & Stripes" Weekend with a dance party at MJ's, BDSM Dungeon Party, Beach Party with fireworks and a "Cham-PAIN" Brunch on Sunday.

Saturday, July 2-3

San Francisco Leather Sir/boy contest at the Powerhouse at 2100. Meet & Greet on Friday. Darryl Flick will MC. For info, click on www.NoCalSLB.com.

Wednesday, July 7

New New New at 933 Harrison: "Naked Buddies." No clothes allowed and no cologne! Doors open 2100 to 2300. For info, dial up 777-HEAD.

Friday, July 9

Leather Night at Renegades in San Jose, 2100 to closing. Meet & Greet for San Jose Leather Sir/boy contest the next night.

Sunday, July 11

Castro Lions annual Leather Auction featuring items from the estates of the late Alan Selby and Thom Gunn. Only \$8 from 1500 to 1800, food, beer/soda bust and distribution of funds to their beneficiaries.

PORN

Defiant films

◀ page 96

And he's adamant about not putting the make on them. Their sexuality isn't for him. It's for them, to give to us.

Where to wade into Defiant's nearly 60 titles? A house specialty is solo jack-off. Try *Fun is Fun*, or the recent *Sk8rBaters*, which has a quartet of four-starred scenes among its seven. Typical of Defiant, these randy street-boys display some great cock. It's from these jack-offs (frequently goosed with some dildo play) that you'll pick the favorites whose sexuality you'll want to track into the amazing interactions of guy-on-guy. I really got off on seeing how these change a guy; the reactions, deepening relationships and personal involvement of the young men are all rarities in mainstream porn. So I freaked for 18-year-old Brett Peters, who's got a deceptively innocent face and a hint of baby fat. Start out with this cutie's first j-o, and then find Kyle jumping his bones — without much resistance — in *Who Would've Thought* (which also serves up the beanie-wearing, soul-patched Adam being taught to love cock by the very appealing Geoffrey). Follow Brett's increasingly adventurous sex-play through *Hanging Out* and *Hey, Guys*, and he'll blow you away in *Because Matthew Matters* as he wiggles on a dildo, gobbles the appreciably heavy cock and laps the heavier load of the charming Mr. Matters (who has since jumped into mainstream porn). In fact, guy-on-guy action

From Defiant's *Naughty & Nice*

for a clutch of Defiant's best culminates in these titles, as well as *Double Trouble*.

Snow blower

Recent Defiant films have been upping the gay quotient. There are more self-identified gay boys mingling with the str8s, making homosexuality a *lingua franca* between the species. And there are more gay boys playing together, showing a younger generation's non-Castroed freshness. For example, there's the funky ghetto-blasted Rock Lee in *Fun is Fun*, whom I nicknamed Barrio Boy.

You've never seen a dude so unidentifiably gay go down so quickly. And I'm in love with the delicious Aaron Snow. When I first saw him making out with Timmy in *Double Trouble*, awkward as a young faun, coy yet hungry (and so lengthily cocked!), I assumed the boys were lovers. Yet he was just as endearingly tender with other partners. What a dear boy! Only the most jaded would not be totally rejuvenated by the darling Mr. Snow. And when you see Dawson pop loads into his mouth like it was target practice, you'll appreciate anew the skill that gay boys cultivate.

Yet it's hardly surprising to see that most of Defiant's str8 dudes know all about their body's sensitivities. Licking their cockheads, shooting into their mouths, wiggling a couple fingers up their buttoles: they know what makes a boy feel good. Serna always leaves a box of dildos off in the corner, and many of the boys are curious and then delighted to find them. If they aren't the toilet plungers and door-stops you find in all-gay productions, these tinier tools of pleasure are just as effective in making a str8 boy pop his nut. For some self-dildo fun, reach for *On the Road: Southern Cal*, *Check It Out* (with a str8 duo dildo-ing) and *Craving the Spunk*; and blow your mind when a pair of raunchy lads suck cock while ass-cramming in *Double Trouble*. Sure, there are scenes that don't click as heatedly as the ones I've picked out. But the majority of Defiant boys'll have you cummin' back for more. www.defiant-productions.com; (415) 595-0714 ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

women and the deaf people who hold up their end with fervor.

We are proud of those who march and protest, and sign petitions and labor in the AIDS Memorial Grove, who march in Leather Pride Walks. And those who endure pie throwing episodes, who picket, boycott and deny allegiance to bars that discriminate, beer companies that deny that they discriminate yet still contribute mass amounts of money to those groups who oppose our lifestyle.

We are proud of gay veterans who work to end that stupid "don't ask, don't tell" policy yet still discharge talented gay men and lesbians because of their sexual preferences.

We are proud of those who produce events for charities, including leather contests, the volunteers at those events and the unsung heroes in the background who toil without complaint and never ask for recognition.

The leather community can be proud of those who are able to donate blood to local banks, who support breast and colon cancer, Lupus, and other diseases still without cures.

We are proud that people like Eric Rofes, a leather man, who forcefully expounded on the "nothing" legacy that the Reagan presidency gave us.

We can be proud of legislators like Mark Leno who stand up in the California Assembly for others and us.

We can be proud we helped elect Mayor Gavin Newsom who knows what "love" is and unequivocally allowed gays and lesbians to marry in San Francisco while creating a national uproar with his action and gave impetus to other mayors to do the same.

We can be proud that the leather community aligned with



Byron Marlow was chosen Arizona Leather Sir 2004 in a contest held at the Padlock Bar in Phoenix. He advances to compete for the Sir title at the Southwest Leather Sir & boy competition August 6-8 in Phoenix.

the court system to make an even bigger difference in prideful coalitions.

We can be proud of those institutions like The 15 Association, the Leathermen's Discussion Group, Avatar in Los Angeles, Black Rose in the Washington Metro Area, the leather "universities", and SM 101 classes to educate people about safe, sane and consensual play.

We can be proud of the photographers and artists and writers who record our history for generations to come.

We can be proud of the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago (and serving the world!) for gath-

ering up memorabilia, photos, books, magazines, buttons, patches and other leather-oriented objects.

I could go on and on but I am sure you get the picture.

So when you step off this coming Sunday, keep all these things and more in mind. Ours will be the largest contingent in this parade. Make a statement. Wear your leathers, wear your Leather Pride Pin, carry a Leather Pride Flag, smile and be happy. But let Leather Pride shine for the cameras, video news outlets, and the general public. I guarantee, you'll feel good about it the rest of the year. ▼

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Santa Rosa Native SWM, 43, 5'10". Redhead ex-navy, 180 lbs. Enjoys running, tennis, travel, chess & talk radio. Seeks relationship. ☎ 71301

Sexy Muscular Asian ISO GWM Inshape friendly guy here seeks BIWM/GWM who is masculine, inshape hairy a plus, HIV- to date on a regular basis. ☎ 71302

Seeking LTR w/Another In-shape guy. I want a 'lover', not a 'fuck buddy'. I'm 48, 5'9", 150#, gym toned, smooth, nice cock, tight ass, great smile, tan, huzz cut, shaved balls, safe, sane, financially secure, artist, business owner, into Zen, Yoga, all arts, working out. Happy except for one thing. I want a week-end lover (I live in Sonoma). During the week we each live our busy lives, looking forward to the wknd when we can be together. ☎ 71307

EBay GBM Service Guy w/Car Seeks dom. oral feeder or anal top who needs to be in control in bdr, is affectionate, tactile, poz. Any age, race. Big Dad's. leather, bear types encouraged. Sincere here. ☎ 71323

Handsome Bottom GLM ISO GWM 40 yrs, 5'8", 155 #, brn/ HIV+, healthy, muscular, nice butt. Lkg for LTR w/GWM 30-45 yrs, 5'5"-5'10" & 150-160#, in shape, slender, versatile. You won't be disappointed ☎ 71311

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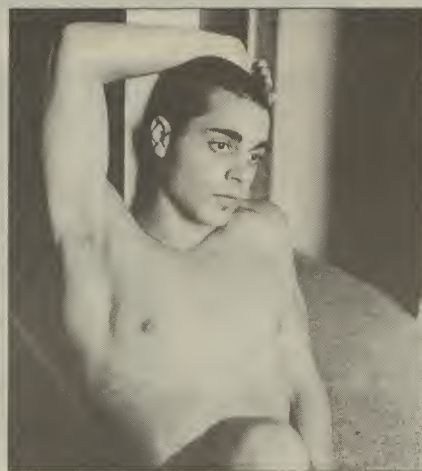
XXX Black/White X-Rated Fun GWM 5'11" 180 Goodlooking masculine and hung seeks GBM for nude beaches, baths, travel and sex. Love to JO and show off my big dick for others. Palo Alto area. ☎ 71322

Only WM R Beautiful GLM 38 yo, handsome, 5'8"/155#, HIV+, healthy muscular bottom masculine. Lkng to date Caucasian nice and romantic, versatile, 30-45 yrs, slim, HIV+ healthy. No drugs, no heavy drinkers. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 71324

Through The Good Times and Bad Sincere, caring GAM, 38, 5'7", med. build, seeks thoughtful, giving, masculine "Heart of Gold" who's interested in friendship/relationship. I live outside of SF. Will relocate for "The Real Thing". ☎ 71325

Looking To Date A Smooth Asian Italian/AM, muscular, very stable, real nice/genuine guy who's romantic, passionate and wants to please his guy. I believe in honest communication. I don't have time for phonies, superficial guys or B.S. ☎ 71326

Sexy and Bright GBM 40's Top Invites you a really neat masculine non stereotypical sexy and bright HIV- GBM top invites you to friendship and more. Race open, but prefer HIV- masculine, hairy men 35-55 with intellect and shared interests in Performing Arts, Politics and History, very funny and am a unique blend of bear/leather/levi/Davies and ACT. Let's get together. ☎ 71332



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Shaved Crotch Top WM, smooth, all over tan, skinny, disease free, 50's 6'3", 180, masculine. Loves attention from other smooth guys. ☎ 71310

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Fun At Night...Meet Me? ☎ 71327

Muscular Masculine Gay Male ISO LTR. Attractive Island boy, Hawaiian, Spanish, Phillipino, 5'7", 145#, 32 waist. Outgoing, romantic with a good heart. Taking applications for dating. Apply while it lasts. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 71305

Are You Feminine? I'll look for you I am a Spanish 50 yo boy, I love very feminine she-males, any age, any race, but with a very hot ass. Te Espero Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino. ☎ 71306

Spank Your Butt Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71309

Couples Two Guys Antioch Two guys Antioch. You ran your ad 2003 Thanksgiving of November, let two guys fulfill your fantasies. Please respond. Thanks, Mike. ☎ 71313

Asian Seeking Muscular Caucasian I'm 38, in-shape, smooth Asian looking to date a nice, romantic and cultured caucasian. Serious response only. ☎ 71315

Older Naked Male Lkng 4 Daddie Hello, my name is Joseph, I am a single older GWM (61) who wants to be naked for my Daddie when he visits me. 5'7", 160#, brn hair blue eyes. ☎ 71316

Weightlift Nude Have bench, barbell, dumbbells. Watch me workout, or join in. I am 49, 5'9", 195#. ☎ 71320

Homeless Guy, inside now, looking for fun. Hairy chest, hazel eyes, brunette/red, uncut, bubble butt, versatile, 13 EE sandals, freckled, English/Welsh. Call boss! ☎ 71331

Summer Nude Beach X-Rated Fun GWM, 5'11", 175, masculine, good looking and hung seeks Buddies for sex, nude beaches. ☎ 71329

Naked Exhibitionist Thrills Sexy nude showoff daring playmates. Where can we get naked and erect?! Nude workouts. Driving naked. Window shows. Mirrors. Muscles. Strip-down! Show off! Novices discouraged. Creative exhibitionists preferred. ☎ 71319

FETISHES

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NudeHotMusclesShowOff Adventure Asian porn stud seeking playmates where we can possibly stripdown totally naked; days and nights! ☎ 71312

ISO Nipple Pig Workout Buddy GWM 49 yo 220#, stocky nipple pig, brn/brn, salt & pepper, goatee, tats, piercings, smoker & huge erect nips. ISO dominate masculine Nip Pig workout buddy for serious nip workout sessions. Growth in mind - smoker A+. Please call! ☎ 71317

Blow Job By: Hung, goodlooking, cuddly black ex-Marine. To: Uncut, mature old man. Average looks okay. Let's have some fun! ☎ 71318

Mr. JCXXX Young Drag-Queens. Cum. Me: MrJC, 56, ISO young drag-queens (18-21 only) for threesome. My +++ cigar-smokers, pretty lips, tight ass, 69, suck, fuck, no drugs/alcohol, G-strings, black nylons! ☎ 71328

Seeking Fetishes-Onyx Is Here For your svc. Open minded to all sex. 29 yrs, smooth, tattoos, 9-10" dick, about 5-6" around. Short hair with side burns. My name is Onyx the Colon Beater. Seeking males only. ☎ 71330

OTHER

Seeking Anonymous Sex Partner? Then get your ad out of this column, which is for people trying to make up for missed connections. Got that, 48yo WM? ☎ 71314

BAR TALK

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Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

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You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

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PERSONALS

Out There

◀ page 79

sity of Guam, sent us a very charming anecdote from *Silent Night: The Remarkable 1914 Christmas Truce* by **Stanley Weintraub**, a heartwarming story all about the absurdity of war. Now, that's a topic that's sure timely!

Goniwecha reviewed the book on the Barnes & Noble website: "In December 1914, the **Western Front** ran through Belgium and northern France. The muddy, slimy quagmire of Flanders trenches became the home away from home of soldiers from Belgium, France, Britain and India, on one side; and from Germany, Saxony, Westphalia, Bavaria and Prussia, on the other.

"Bubbling up from the ranks of the enlisted and the conscripted, soldiers observed a Christmas 'you no shoot, we no shoot' day, initially to reclaim and bury their dead from No Man's Land. The holiday feelings manifested themselves in Christmas trees, caroling, friendly insults and facetious taunts, followed by heartfelt exchanges of sausages, chocolates, cigarettes, plum pudding — and even barrels of beer and soccer matches.

"The remarkable impromptu truce was downplayed in official reports. Seeking plausible deniability, officers on both sides blamed the enemy side. But here Weintraub poignantly presents in black-and-white the ample evidence, including photographs. Highly recommended."

Not part of Goniwecha's review, but he thinks perhaps this may be of interest to B.A.R. readers: "In Chapter 5, 'Football,' Weintraub reports on a football/soccer match between the German 133rd Saxon Regiment and the British Medical Corps, in which the Germans bested the British by 3 to 2. His account is supported by a letter published in *The Times*, by the official history of the 133rd Saxon Regiment, and by diary accounts and letters home."

Weintraub elaborates. "In Hamburg in 1969, Oberleutnant **Johannes Niemann** recalled the scene and the score, adding with delight, 'At this soccer match, our privates soon discovered that the Scots wore no underpants under their kilts, so that their behinds became clearly visible any time their kilts moved in the wind. We had a lot of fun with that, and in the beginning, we just couldn't be-

lieve it.

"I myself got a private lesson one later time when I was seriously wounded and lay on the floor of a British ambulance, with four lightly wounded Scotsmen sitting on a supporting bar right over me."

Thanks to our friend in Guam for bringing the war home to us in such a delightful and resonant way!

The main events

Disco legends and Weathergirls **Jeanie Tracy and Martha Wash** will blow down the house at *Mighty Real*, an HIV/AIDS benefit which kicks off the fabulous 2004 Gay Pride weekend tonight, Thursday, June 24. The big party transpires at Ruby Skye, 420 Mason St., and will feature a tribute to the late disco/dance pioneer **Sylvester**. Special performances are promised from **LZ** and the **SF Gay Men's Chorus**.

DJ Hawthorne, who will spin, says, "We're taking a break from the typical circuit party to instead pay homage and respect to the people we've lost. The music will feature remixes of the '70s and '80s, as well as modern house music. We're really going to celebrate how far we've come as a culture, and recognize how far we have yet to go in our fight against this disease."

Advance tickets (\$25) may still be available at The Cafe, 2367 Market St.; Body on Castro, 450 Castro St.; and Medium Rare Records, 2310 Market Street. Tix at door: \$35. Info: ghettodisco.com.

On Friday night, June 25, stage and screen star **Alan Cumming**, this year's SF Pride co-celebrity grand marshal, will take the stage at Mission High School to join the **SF Gay Men's Chorus** (**Dr. Kathleen McGuire**, director), the **SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band** (**Jadine Louie**, director) and the **Lesbian/Gay Chorus of SF** (**Stephanie Smith**, director) at the 26th Annual Pride Concert, *All You Need Is Love*, an all-**Beatles** musical tribute to the late **Brian Epstein**, the unsung (until now) gay hero who managed to turn the Fab Four into international superstars, at one time topping even **Jesus** on the charts.

Cumming will sing "Imagine" and "Penny Lane" with choral backup at Friday night's big event, 8 p.m. in Murphy Auditorium, Mission High School, 3750 18th St., SF. Tickets (\$10-\$40) at the box office, 4053 18th St., SF. Info at www.sfgmc.org. Got to get this into your life. ▼

was perfectly happy with himself, and made no apologies for it.

Very Natural preserves gay life as it was in New York City in the early 1970s. Some of the dialogue now seems dated, as characters routinely ask each other how long they've been out. "Hip," '70s-style dialogue like, "That's not where I'm at," or, "There's something heavy going on" may elicit a few chuckles. But this story of cute, idealistic David (Robert Joel) and his search for true love still manages to ring true. While the film may evoke a pre-AIDS era that seems much farther away than it is, its overall themes are timeless and universal.

The film features an extended sequence shot at New York's 1973 Pride Parade. Intercut between shots of David attending the parade and meeting a new boyfriend at the Christopher Street Pier are interviews with actual parade-marchers.

In a small way, *A Very Natural Thing* preserves the faces and voices of these nameless early activists for future generations to see and learn from. ▼

Digital pride

◀ page 97

growth of the community.

Brilliantly written, superbly acted by all — including the late great female impersonator Charles Pierce, who plays a friend of Arnold's — *Torch Song Trilogy* is essential viewing. Arnold's story is our story, and if you think you're proud of being gay now, just watch this film. It'll make you even prouder!

A Very Natural Thing (1974) Water Bearer Films \$29.95

Films should be judged in the context of when they were made, not when they are viewed. This charming little curio from our not-so-distant past is a case in point.

A Very Natural Thing is a charming, low-budget coming-of-age drama. Shot on grainy 16mm film with a less-than-professional cast, it was the first feature-length film to present being gay as a "normal" way of life. The protagonist

BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

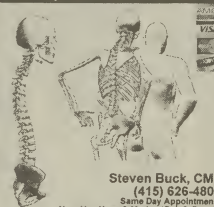
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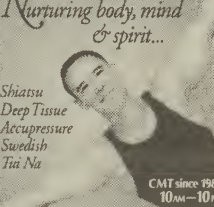
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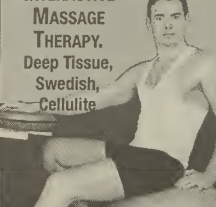
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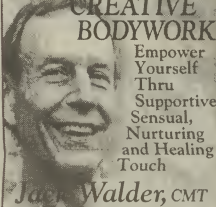
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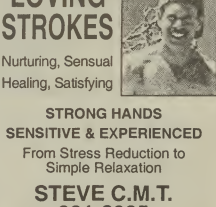
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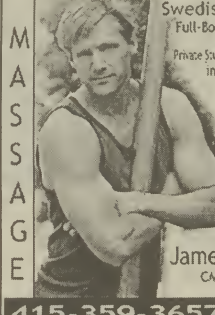


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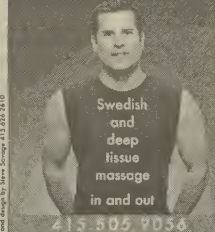
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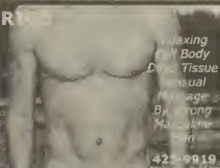
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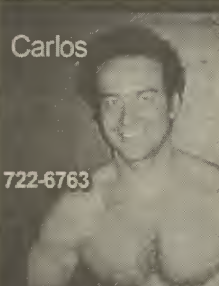
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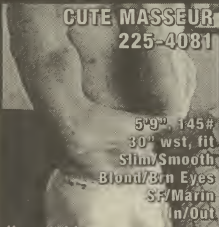
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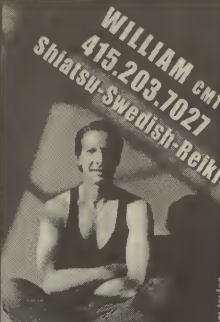
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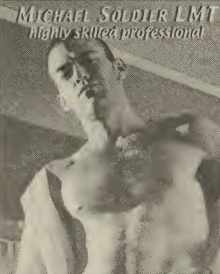
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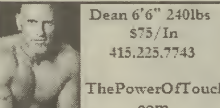


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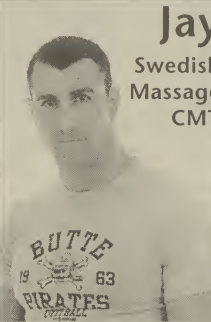
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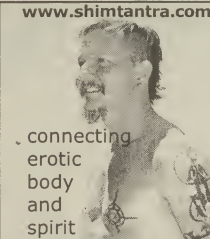
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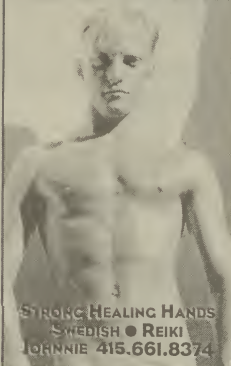
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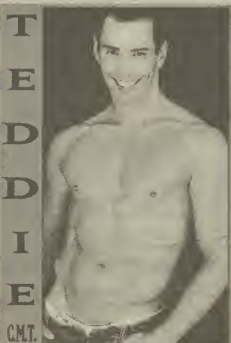


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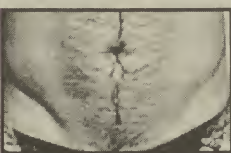
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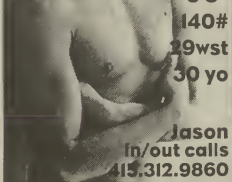


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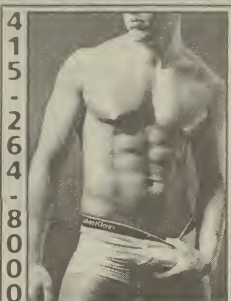
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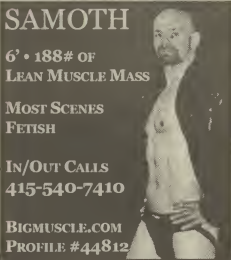
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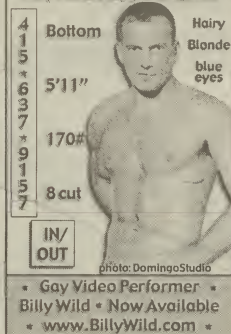
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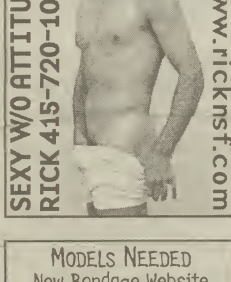
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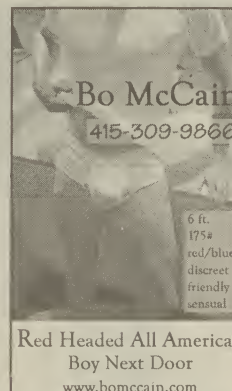
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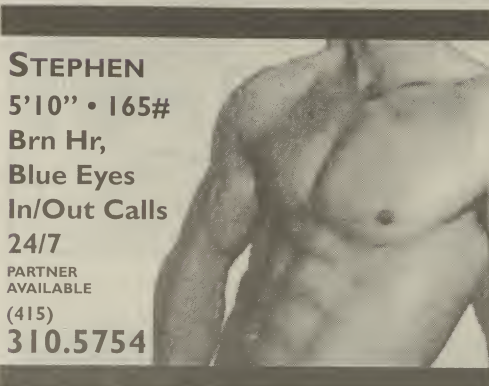
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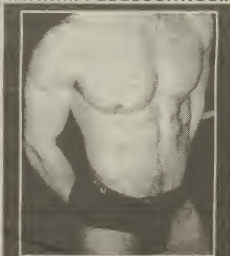
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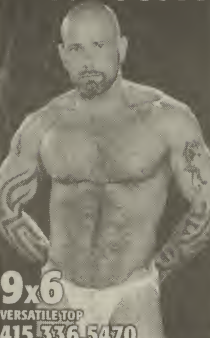
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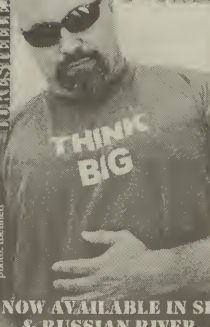
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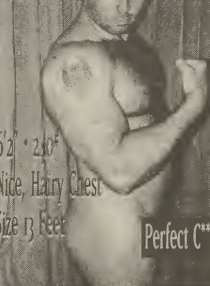
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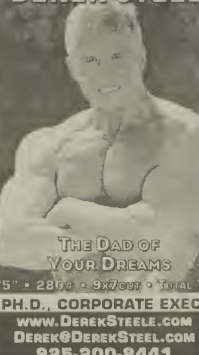
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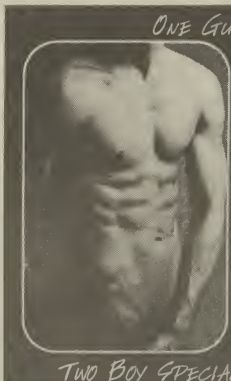


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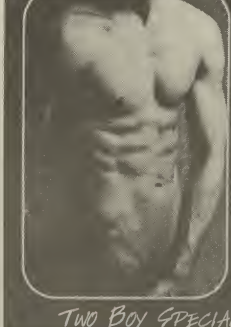
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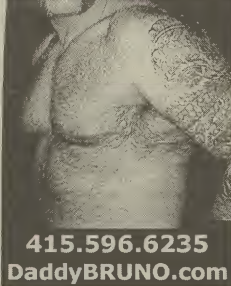


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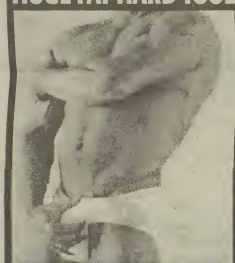
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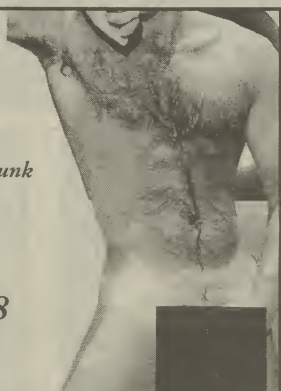
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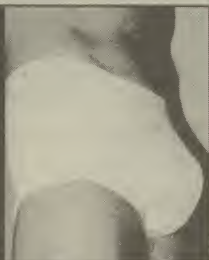
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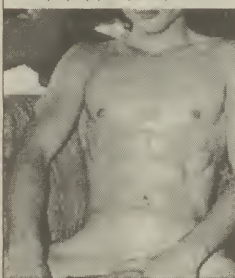
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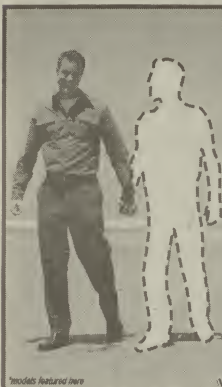
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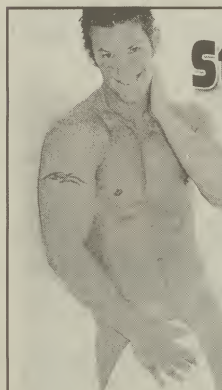
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